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ABSTRACT

GRADES OR AGES: Mentally retarded children of any age. SUBJECT MATTER: Arts and crafts. ORGANIZATION AND PHYSICAL APPEARANCE: The guide is divided into sections according to the material to be used. Section headings are: Paper, Fabrics, Wood, Metal, Nature, Miscellaneous, and Painting. Each section is laid out in three parallel columns, one each for project illustration, materials, and procedure. The guide is offset printed and spiral bound with a paper cover. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES: Introductory sections outline a brief philosophy of art education for the mentally retarded and develop related general and specific objectives. Projects in each section are in order of increasing difficulty; no age or grade level is specified. Each project description includes a detailed outline of procedures to follow. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS: A list of materials needed and an illustration of the finished product accompanies each project description. In addition, a short appendix contains recipes for making different types of paint, clay, and modeling dough. STUDENT ASSESSMENT: No mention. (RT)

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ARTS and CRAFTS

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For Use with Mentally Retarded Students

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

1966

FOREWORD

An important key to effective teaching is an understanding and acceptance of all children and how they differ. Acceptance and understanding of mentally handicapped children have progressed much faster in South Carolina since the passage in 1954 of the Special Education Act which provided special instruction for the mentally and physically handicapped.

Schools have the general problem of determining the needs of children for special education with the assistance of state supervisors and psychologists and then of developing and conducting a program to meet the needs of these children. Many of these children became discouraged in the past and dropped out of school, never receiving the education of which they were capable.

In a democratic society, we believe that every child should be given an opportunity to reach his full potential. Mentally handicapped children need a special curriculum, special teaching methods, and special materials to enable them to progress satisfactorily.

This guide is developed as an aid to teachers of mentally retarded children. The suggestions and recommendations will enable teachers to plant meaningful experiences with students.

JESSE T. ANDERSON,
State Superintendent of Education.

INTRODUCTION

In the final analysis, the improvement of education in the public schools is dependent on the initiative, understanding, and cooperation of the individual teacher. Curriculum guides such as this are designed to help you, the teacher, improve your techniques of teaching so that those boys and girls who come under your influence may reach maximum development commensurate with their abilities and potentialities.

You, as special education teachers, have a unique opportunity to help develop and enhance the lives of these exceptional children who have been entrusted to your care. As you recognize this opportunity, you must also recognize your responsibilities in guiding the development of educable mentally retarded boys and girls into adults who have attained self-realization, social acceptance, and satisfying employment.

It is our hope that this guide will help you, the special education teacher, as you strive to meet the educational needs of these exceptional children throughout our State.

J. CARLISLE HOLLER, *Director,*
Division of Instruction.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Curriculum Guide for Educable Mentally Retarded has been prepared through the cooperation of the South Carolina State Department of Education, Division of Instruction, for use in special education classes throughout the State.

W. Owens Corder, supervisor of special education, directed the project until January, 1966. Robert P. Armstrong, supervisor of curriculum in special education, directed the completion of the guide.

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Special appreciation is acknowledged to the following consultants who visited the committee, reviewed the work, and offered valuable suggestions:

Dr. Wiestse DeHoop, West Georgia Teacher's College, Carrollton, Georgia;

Sister Miriam Terese, O. S. F., St. Coletta School, Jefferson, Wisconsin, and Sister Mary Theodore, O. S. F., Superintendent, St. Coletta School, Jefferson, Wisconsin;

We express special appreciation to the typists: Mrs. June Alexander, Mrs. Marjorie Asbill, Miss Katherine Lee, Miss Betty Jo Marsh, Miss Beth Merritt, Miss Patricia M. Pizzuti, and Miss Judy Smith; and to Miss Toni Child for editing the work.

We are grateful to all who have made a contribution to the preparation of this material. It is our hope that the use of this guide shall enrich the lives of mentally retarded boys and girls throughout our State.

ROBERT P. ARMSTRONG, *Supervisor, Curriculum, Special Education.*

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

1. Self Discipline
2. Sense of Security
3. A Sense of Personal Worth and Dignity
4. A Feeling of Success and Pride in Achievement
5. Respect for the Rights of Others

PHYSICAL GROWTH:

1. Self Care
2. Sense Perception
3. Manipulative and Coordinative Skills
4. Speech Correction
5. Safety

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

1. Social Competence
2. Responsibility toward Home and Family Living
3. Desirable Attitudes toward Constructive Citizenship
4. Use of Leisure Time
5. Appreciation of Cultural Activities

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT:

1. Development of an Inquiring Mind
2. Achievement in Basic Skills
3. Development of Communicative Skills
4. Promotion of Creativity

ECONOMIC GROWTH:

1. Management of Personal Affairs
2. Relating Successfully with Others
3. Creating an Awareness of Community Vocations
4. Developing an Appreciation for Occupations
5. Vocational Training and Guidance
6. Vocational Competence

PHILOSOPHY

We believe it is the right of every child to be provided the opportunity to receive an education geared to his needs and commensurate with his capacity for achievement. The educable retarded child has the same needs as the normal child, plus special needs related to his handicap which must be met in order that he reach his potential. The educable mentally retarded child, when given an opportunity to discover and develop his abilities, can make a contribution to society.

The many ideas and suggestions in this curriculum guide are offered for your guidance in meeting the various needs of all your students. However, there is no curriculum guide which can be so skillfully written that it will meet all the needs of all students. Therefore, this guide should be used as supplementary or resource material rather than a rigid course of study. Many of the recommended procedures can be altered so as to provide excellent learning activities in the classroom as well as situations outside the school environment.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

PURPOSE

The inclusion of arts and crafts in a curriculum guide for educable mentally retarded children serves a three-fold purpose:

1. They provide many varied and interesting activities which can be used to complement academic instruction in the language arts and arithmetic. They can be used to clarify, strengthen, and make more meaningful the basic concepts of the school curriculum which the slow learning child finds difficult because of his limited verbal intelligence.

2. They serve as invaluable media for the growth of the total personality of the child in the development of such traits as pride in accomplishment, sense of personal worth, and the satisfaction of being a contributing member of society.

3. They provide in themselves ways and means of becoming aware of not only the practical and the useful, but also the beautiful and the enjoyable, opening new avenues of satisfaction and accomplishment.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is centered on materials. An effort has been made to include all types of materials available in this section of the country. Each material is described from the standpoint of what it will do, how it should be cared for, and where it can be obtained. Projects to be made from each material follow.

Projects have been arranged in order of difficulty but without regard to age or grade level. Teachers know their pupils' capabilities and special interests and will be able to select projects appropriate to individual needs.

Suggestions are given as to ways to correlate arts and crafts with other class activities. A section is designated for frequently used "recipes."

OBJECTIVES

While it is conceded that arts and crafts offer activities that are worthwhile purely from the standpoint of enjoyment, it is believed that a sound educational curriculum for mentally retarded children should integrate the arts and crafts into the total program so that every activity has meaning and purpose. In light of this belief, the following specific objectives are presented which will aid in the growth and development of the child.

A. Physical

1. Arts and crafts are invaluable means of developing and improving the perceptual and motor skills.
2. They are aids in training a child's perception more accurately.
3. They are means of improving manipulative skills, finger dexterity, and using the hands with precision.

B. Mental

1. Through the media of arts and crafts, children are helped to develop their talents and potentials.
2. They are encouraged to express their individual personalities in creative and original work.
3. Because the child can see and feel the results of his efforts, he is encouraged to "do his very best."
4. Children learn the value of and the possibilities inherent in a wide variety of materials.
5. New media are furnished for the expression of thought and experience.
6. Perceptual learning is encouraged through directed attention to forms, lines, areas, tones, and color.
7. Arts and crafts help a child to become aware of his surroundings, recognizing that arts and crafts exist everywhere, in furniture, pictures, trinkets, jewelry, and in making useful and attractive things out of worn-out and discarded objects and materials.
8. Children learn to follow directions.
9. They develop skill in observation and discrimination, in seeing relationships, and in perspective.

C. Personal and Social

1. Arts and crafts are a means of helping a child obtain joy and satisfaction from personal accomplishment.

2. Ego satisfaction is gained when a child discovers an area of accomplishment within his level of ability.

3. Through the informal atmosphere of the arts and crafts lesson, children learn many things which help in establishing more pleasant interpersonal relationships:

a. Respect for the rights of others.

b. Cooperation.

c. Sharing and helping.

d. Assuming responsibility.

e. Controlling personal desires in favor of serving the good of the group.

f. A tolerant attitude toward those more or less capable.

g. A desire to make their surroundings more attractive.

D. Vocational and Avocational

1. Preparation for the world of work can be started with the development of good work habits. Basic to this training are:

a. Finishing every job begun.

b. Using time wisely.

c. Becoming acquainted with common hand tools and their uses.

d. Attention to rules of safety.

e. Learning to take criticism.

f. Sharing in the disagreeable aspects of work, *i. e.*, cleaning up and puttings things in order after work.

g. Learning to assume responsibility.

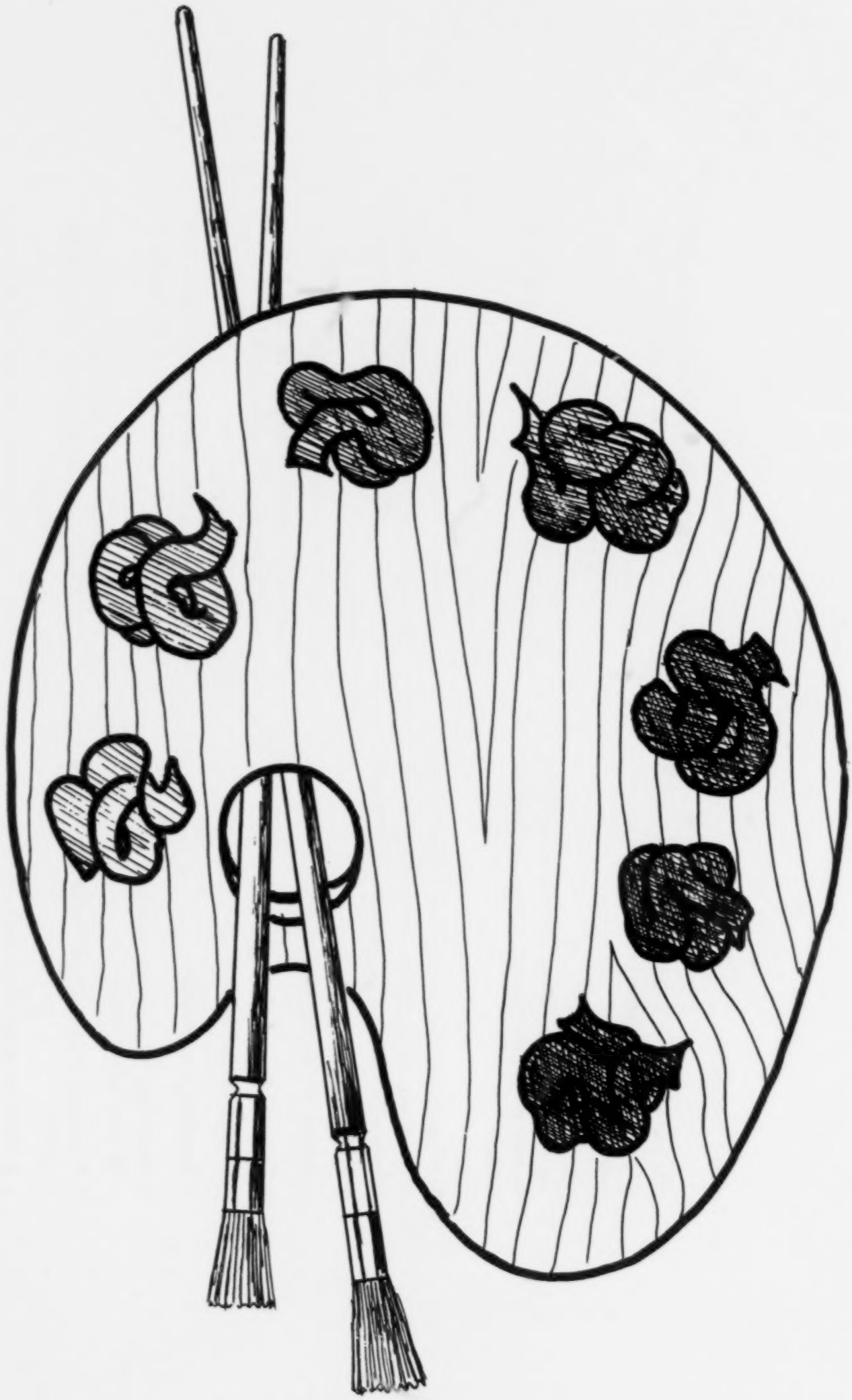
h. Gaining an appreciation of work that is well done, both their own and that of others.

2. Preparation for living.

a. Through arts and crafts, children learn that surroundings can be attractive as well as functional.

b. They learn that busy hands and minds occupied with worthwhile activities are not likely to get into trouble.

c. Their lives are enriched through the development of aesthetic values.



ART

It is difficult to draw the line between what is art and what is craft because there is so much craftsmanship in art and artistic expression is such an important ingredient in crafts. From the standpoint of the curriculum, a craft is a medium through which pattern, assembling of parts, and project making are stressed; art, on the other hand, offers opportunities for creativity and expression of individual talents and tastes.

More than any other subject, art is an area through which children are taught perceptual awareness.

> "The key to richer awareness lies in the development of our *sensory* equipment. We must learn to investigate, explore, search, experiment. Nothing in our environment is too small or unimportant to overlook." (Linderman and Herberholz, 1964)

The section in the Introduction on objectives lists the general aims of arts and crafts as media of instruction for EMR children. Specifically, in presenting art, the following elements should be taken into account:

1. Art is a means of developing creative abilities and motor skills. Because of their slower development, many EMR children have not developed the fine motor coordination requisite to the accomplishment of basic learning skills. Art activities, such as paper cutting and folding, coloring, painting, tracing, and manipulating blocks and geometric shapes, contribute greatly to the development of these skills.

2. Perception is improved through the practice of matching shapes and colors, discerning differences and likenesses, contrasting size and weight, near and far, high and low, and observing natural things, their beauty, their usefulness, and their individuality. The way objects feel gives a new dimension to perception and even their taste and smell increase familiarity and broaden experiences.

3. Art is a means of communicating. Frustrations, aggressions, unhappiness, and disappointments find outlets in the sharp, swift sweep of the brush or other implement across the page. A child's art reveals his unspoken hurt and says to the teacher, "I need understanding." When a child becomes absorbed in creativity, he should not be interrupted. If he wishes to explain his work, the teacher should lend an appreciative and uncritical ear. A child should feel free to express himself. To reject his art is to reject him.

4. Art fosters the development of flexibility and willingness to change. It sets a premium on being different as opposed to following dull routine. It awakens that spark of individuality that makes for interesting differences. More than in any other curricular area, art offers an opportunity to be creative, to think differently, to work independently, to rebel against uniformity. This is a need of the mentally retarded as well as of those more richly endowed.

5. Finally, the basic ingredient to the expression of artistic creativity is awareness. Rather than teaching

art, the teacher helps children to become aware and they produce art. Awareness can be fostered by the following steps:

a. Teach a child how to observe a thing long enough to experience something. Do not tell him what to see but ask such questions as: "What does it remind you of?" "How does it make you feel?" Ask questions about color.

b. When appropriate, let the children touch or handle the object being observed.

c. Use contrast to teach colors and shapes. "What are the differences between an orange and an apple?" Solicit differences in texture of skin, color, shape, shine, etc.

d. Where possible use actual experience to teach size, distance, sky-earth relationship, foreground and background. A trip into the school yard or a field trip offers opportunities to teach awareness. Such a trip should be focused on one basic idea at a time. Normal children can get these precepts through verbalization; the mentally handicapped child needs concrete experiences.

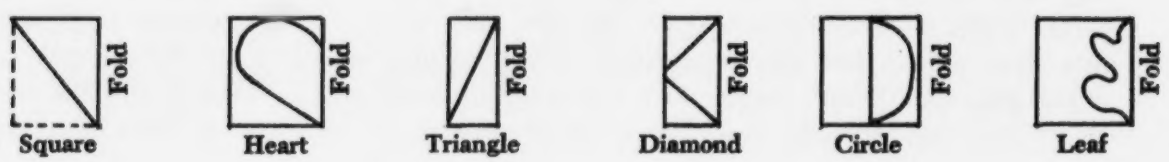
e. Bring in other aspects of the curriculum. For example, an art lesson on fish might be presented in its initial stages as a paper cutting or tearing technique. Then discuss their characteristics, uses, why they have certain features, such as gills and scales and their commercial, recreational, and other values as the maturity of the children allows.

f. Develop a sense of well-being in the child by valuing what he creates. Show him how to mount his work on an appropriate background and to place or hang it so as to display it to advantage.

THE ART LESSON

Whereas you do not "teach art," you do teach art techniques. After the technique is learned, it can be used in any creative manner the artist wishes. For the beginning EMR child the techniques are very simple.

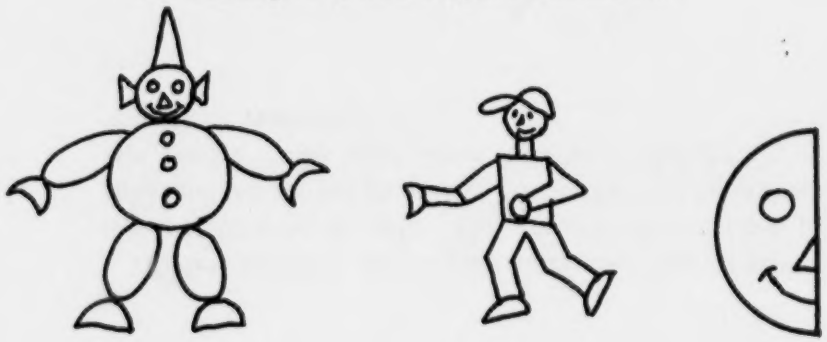
1. Paper cutting. With blunt-pointed scissors and squares of paper, children can be taught how to cut out simple shapes, such as



Immature children should be taught one shape at a time with the teacher standing in front of the class demonstrating how it is done. After the shapes have been cut, more advanced lessons can stimulate a child's creativity by making "something" out of the cut pieces.

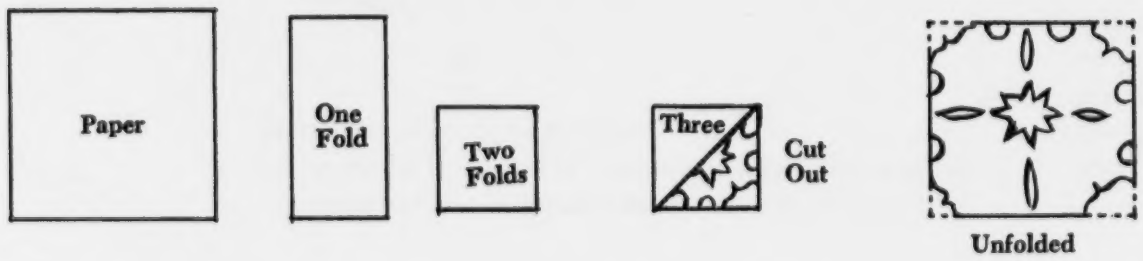
Subsequent lessons can present the cutting of a person's head from folded paper.

The cutting of a whole figure can follow.



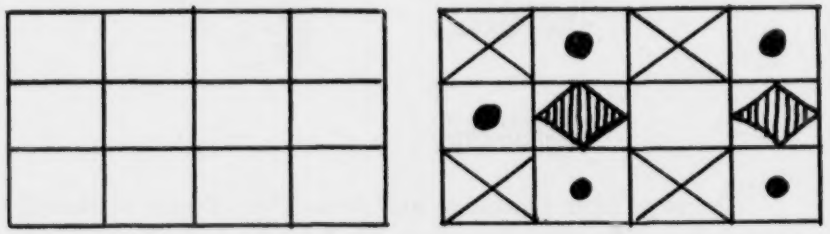
A child's originality can be piqued by challenging him. "Now let's see who can make something out of the scraps of paper he has left. You may have a large sheet of paper on which to assemble your picture."

Simple paper folding and cutting can lead to more difficult operations. Folding paper into several folds and cutting can produce interesting results. Pasting the finished design on a different colored sheet makes a pretty effect which can be mounted and used for book covers or for spatter painting.

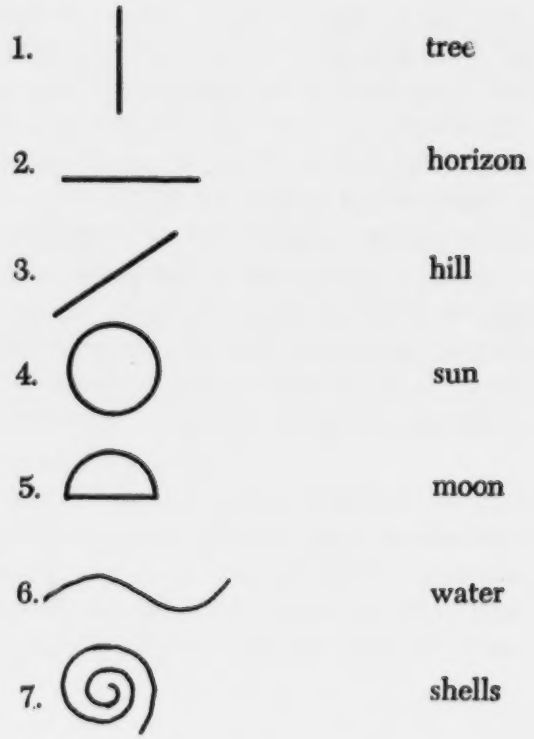


Folding paper into several squares is a simple way to teach design.

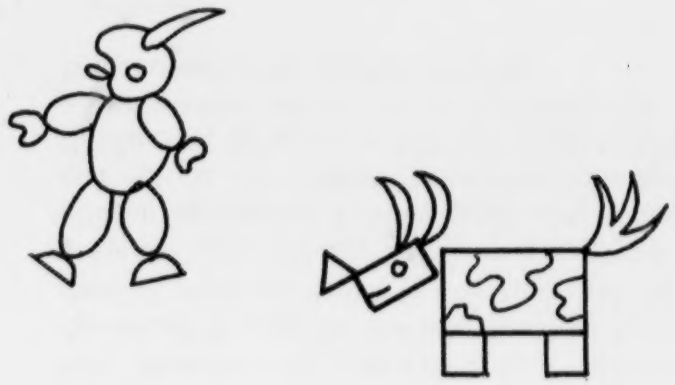
The squares can be colored in different colors or a different shape can be drawn in each one to produce a pleasing effect. The shapes previously taught can be cut and traced.



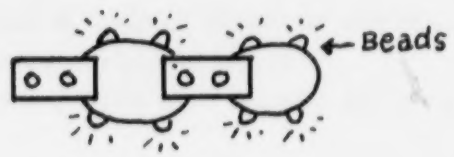
The seven symbols of all primitive art can be taught and used in regular patterns to create designs.



Very immature children can make original creations out of strips of paper of varying lengths and widths. Some can be hung as mobiles.



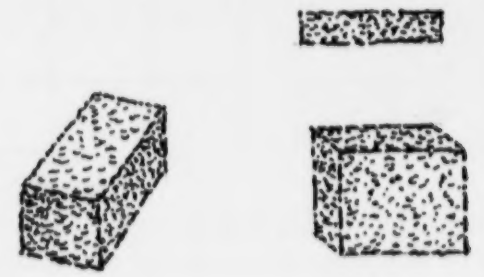
Folded strips of paper make arms and legs of paper animals or men or belts. The child is shown how to fold and cut the paper and to paste. How he assembles the pieces is his own idea. Whatever the result, it should be respected.

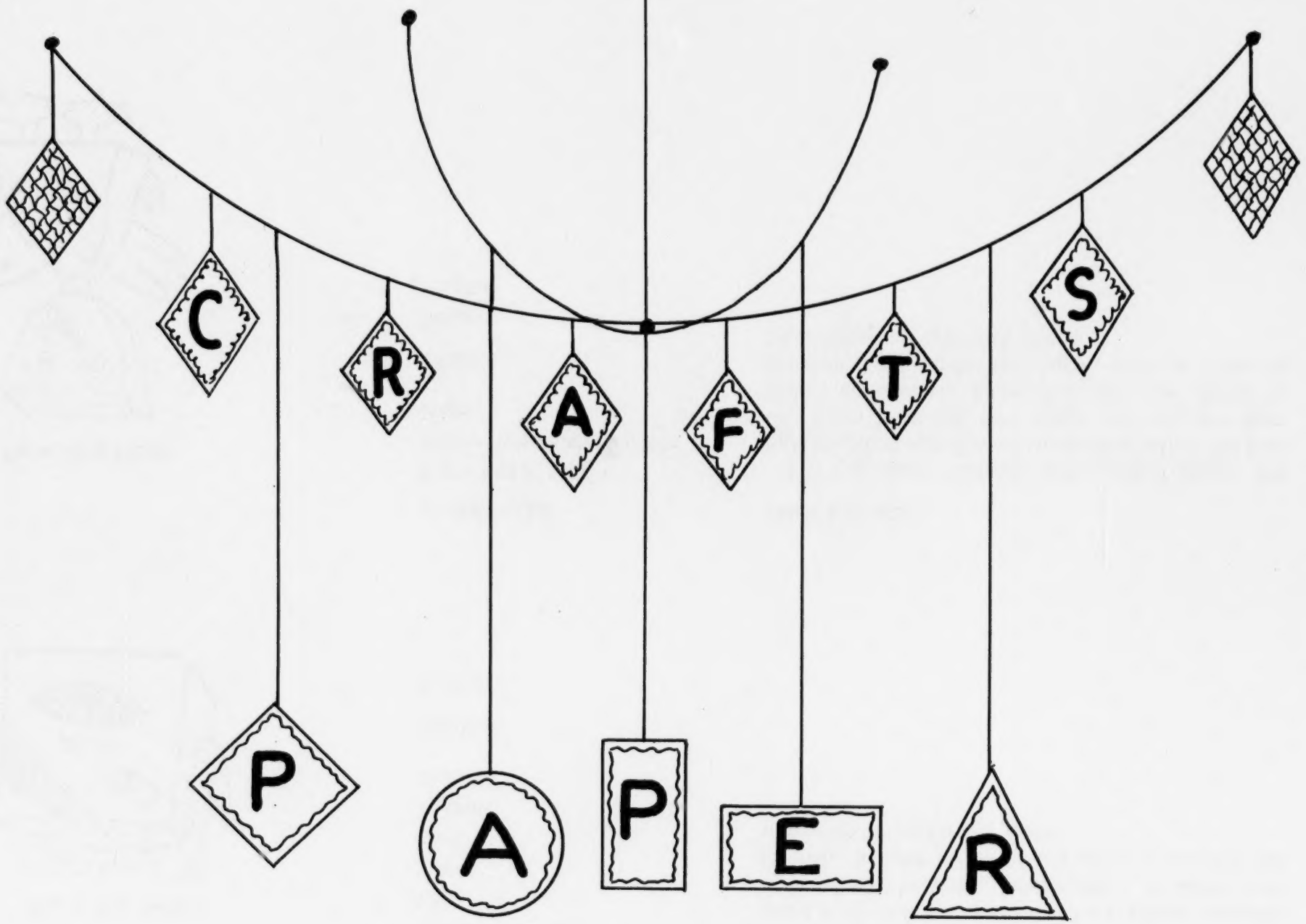


Newspapers and newsprint can be used in somewhat the same manner. Since this paper is easily torn, the scissors can be put aside and the fingers can tear the paper into the desired shapes. This inexpensive and plentiful paper affords much practice to give finger muscles needed exercise.

More complicated art work can be done with paper in the making of puppets, masks, and animals. These can be the simple stuffed paperbag type with built-up nose and ears, or the more complicated paper maché ones made from strips of paper glued over a frame.

In learning a technique, all children should make the same thing. This might be called the structured lesson. The creative lesson is one in which each child does something different or puts his own interpretation on a basic idea. This holds true in teaching the use of paints, painting and drawing implements, and crayons as well as paper. The young child who likes to scribble can be shown how to get different effects by using the broad side of a piece of crayon or chalk, or using two pieces of crayon held together. When his scribbles begin to take on shape, he can be introduced to different coloring and painting techniques such as sponge painting: different shaped pieces of sponge dipped in one or more colors of paint.





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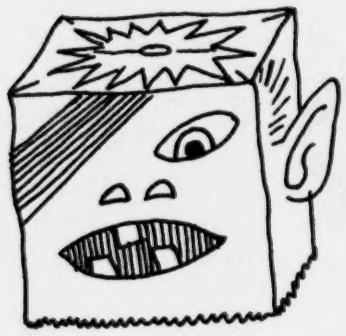
Paper Bag Masks



MATERIALS

Paper bag
Construction paper
Glue
Tape
Yarn
Buttons
Beads

TOOLS

Scissors

PROCEDURE

For Hallowe'en or other special programs, ordinary brown paper bags can be decorated with materials listed at the left to represent clowns, robots, animals, or storybook characters. Designs cut from paper, yarn for hair, buttons for eyes, and painted features are simple additions for the masks.

Paper Bag Duck

MATERIALS

Paper bag 5" x 11"
Yellow construction paper
Paste

TOOLS

Scissors
Stapler

PROCEDURE

Fill bag about halfway with crushed paper. Tie tightly with string. Spread out the top half of the bag. Cut out a large bill, two wings, and two feet from yellow construction paper. Cut tail (not shown in picture) from construction paper. Glue or staple in place. Draw on eyes with crayon.

PROJECTS

Mosaic Turkeys

MATERIALS

Odd-shaped bits of paper
White construction paper
Colored construction paper
Scissors
Glue

PROCEDURE

Draw a turkey on white paper. Cut colored construction paper into odd-shaped bits and glue on the outline. Cut out the turkey and glue onto a sheet of dark construction paper. Made fairly small, these turkeys can be used as chalkboard borders, decorations for a Thanksgiving program, or on the bulletin board with a large red barn. Or the class could make one large turkey for the bulletin board or door decoration.

Hand-Print Turkeys

MATERIALS

Poster paint
Construction paper
Crayons
Sponge

PROCEDURE

Place sponge in a dish filled with poster paint and saturate it. Have child press his hand firmly on the sponge so that it is covered with enough paint for a handprint on construction paper. Draw with crayons an eye, feet, and waddle and add grass.

Hand-Print Birds

MATERIALS

Poster paint
Construction paper
Crayons
Sponge

PROCEDURE

Place sponge in a dish of poster paint and saturate it. Have child press his hand firmly on the sponge so that it is covered with enough paint for a handprint on construction paper. Handprints should be paired for wings, and crayons may be used to draw a decorative body between them.

PAPER

Paper is probably the cheapest, most plentiful, easiest to get material and is available in the most varied forms. Not only does it come in sheet form from drab newsprint to crystal tissue in the most exotic colors, but it is also found in paper plates, cups, milk cartons, egg cartons, boxes, corrugated cardboard, wallpaper, etc. A collection of attractively illustrated magazines and Christmas and other greeting cards are a must for use with paper craft as well as other projects. Schools usually furnish construction paper, brown wrapping paper, and rolls of newsprint. Students can help collect cartons, boxes, and other paper products when a particular project is anticipated.

Paper and paper products have to be protected from dampness, sunlight to prevent fading and yellowing, and destructive insects and rodents. Enclosed shelves make the best storage space.

PROJECT

Lunch Box
Darning or Knitting Box

MATERIALS

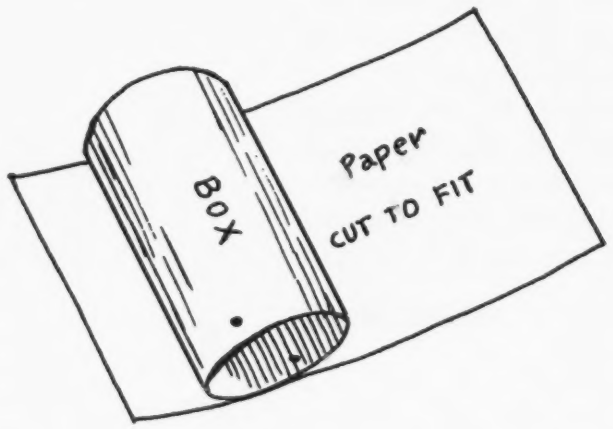
Small oatmeal box
Wallpaper or one of the child's drawings
Strips of rags or wool or cotton yarn
Crayons or water colors
Glue
Shellac

TOOLS

Scissors
Hole punch

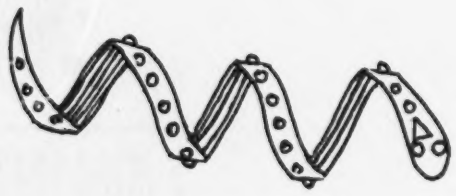
PROCEDURE

Cut paper to fit the oatmeal box. Paste paper around the box, keeping edges flush with the top and bottom of the box. Punch two holes opposite each other at the open end of the box. Braid the yarn or strips of rags, loop into the holes, and tie each end, making a handle. Shellac the box.



PROJECT

Snake Bracelet



MATERIALS

Cardboard tube 12″ long
Airplane glue or
gold or silver paint
Sequins or small buttons

TOOLS

Single-edge razor blade

PROCEDURE

Cut open tube following spiral seam. Cut this strip in half lengthwise following the inside seam. This makes 2 strips, each ½ inch wide. Round off end of strip for head; point other end for tail. Paint both sides. Glue on sequins or buttons.

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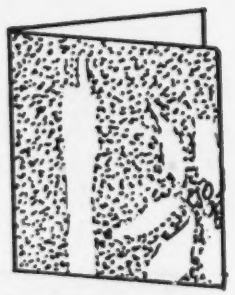
Greeting Cards



MATERIALS

Construction paper
Spray gun
White tempera paint
Pins

PROCEDURE

Cut construction paper in half and fold each half for card. Cut out simple design for greeting card and pin in position on card. Use insect spray gun or spray bottle that has been filled with white tempera. Cover the card. Stand from 3 to 5 feet away to spray. After it has dried, remove cut-out design. This works best if card can be pinned to cork board before spraying rather than placing it flat on a table.

PROJECT

Egg Carton Caterpillar

MATERIALS

One egg carton
(preferably carton that holds two rows of six eggs)
Tempera paint
Paint brushes
Two toothpicks

TOOLS

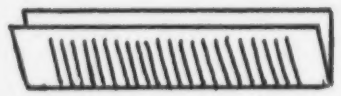
Scissors

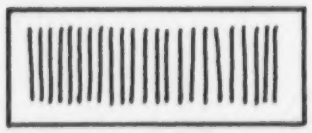
PROCEDURE

Cut egg carton so that caterpillar will have six segments in his body. Paint segments the color(s) desired. Place two toothpicks in caterpillar's head for antennas and either paint eyes and mouth to give caterpillar his personality or stick buttons on with straight pins.

21

Paper Lanterns





MATERIALS

Colored construction paper
12″ x 8″
Glue
Pencil

TOOLS

Scissors
Ruler

PROCEDURE

Fold construction paper down the middle so that size is 12″ x 4″. Starting at the folded edge, draw lines with ruler and pencil almost all the way to the edge; space lines ½″ - ¾″ apart. Cut along the penciled lines. Glue ends of paper together, forming the lantern. Glue a strip of paper across the top to make a handle.

PROJECT

Santa Is A Circle

MATERIALS

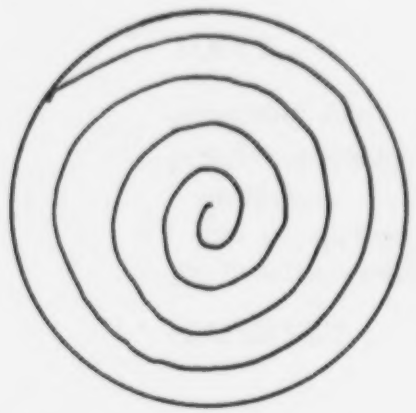
Coffee can lid
Small jar lid
Spool
Red, white, blue and pink poster paper
Gold stars

PROCEDURE

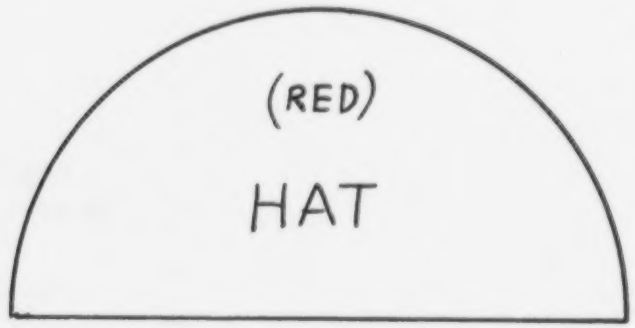
This Santa with stars in his eyes is made with three sizes of circles. The largest circle makes his head. A coffee can lid may be used to trace this circle on pink paper. Half this same size circle traced on red paper makes his hat. The next size, traced from a small jar lid, makes the circles which are cut into spirals for his whiskers, and the pompom for his hat. These are made of white paper. A red circle of this size, cut in half, makes his mouth.

This smallest size, traced from a spool, is made of blue for the eyes.

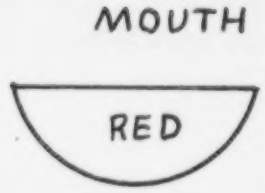
Gold stars in his eyes give him extra sparkle.



Whiskers (white)
and pompom on hat



EYES (BLUE)
Gold Stars



PROJECT

Paper Plate Millinery

MATERIALS

Construction paper
Paper plate
Ribbon
Nylon net
Scraps of cloth
Artificial flowers
Paper cups
Paper cups used for baking muffins

PROCEDURE

Give each child a paper plate for base. Any assortment and as much variety as possible in materials will provide an opportunity for creative design in making the hat. Have an Easter parade at completion.

Waste paper can

MATERIALS

Ice cream container which can be obtained from drugstores
Wallpaper samples
Wallpaper paste

TOOLS

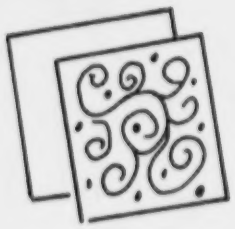
Scissors

PROCEDURE

Spread outside of carton with a thin layer of wallpaper paste. Paste wallpaper sample around entire carton. Designs cut from construction paper may be used as substitute for wallpaper.

PROJECT

Varicolored Transfer Paper



MATERIALS

Typing paper
Crayons
Ballpoint pen

PROCEDURE

Color all of one side of typing paper heavily with crayons of different colors. Lay paper, color side down, on another sheet of paper. You can produce varicolored writing or drawings by pressing with a ballpoint pin (or sharp pencil). This technique is especially good for decorating book covers.

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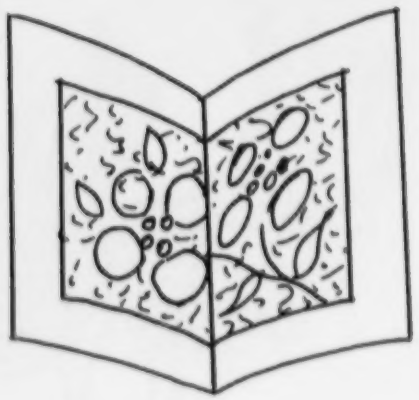
Parchment Cards



MATERIALS

Wax paper
Colored facial tissues
Paintbrush
Water
Elmer's glue
Glitter
Newspaper
Iron

PROCEDURE

The blending of wax paper and colored face tissues resembles parchment. Place a piece of wax paper on a hard surface. On top of it lay a single tissue the same size. Between the two pieces sandwich a leaf, a holiday cutout from a paper napkin, or any cut-paper design. With a paintbrush cover the tissue surface with a solution of ¼ cup water and ½ cup Elmer's glue. Sprinkle on glitter and dry. The next day place newspapers over and under the papers and press with a warm iron. Fold in half and paste plain paper inside for a message.

PROJECT

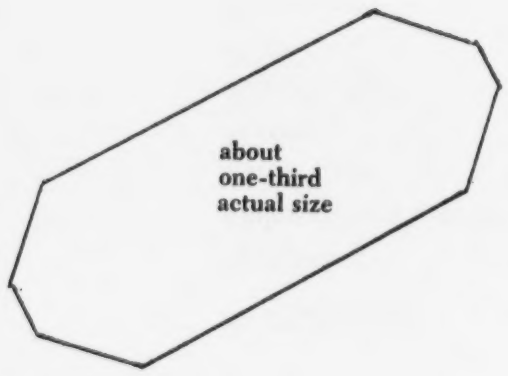
Christmas Wreath

MATERIALS

Newspaper
Wire coat hanger
Gold spray
Red ribbon

TOOLS

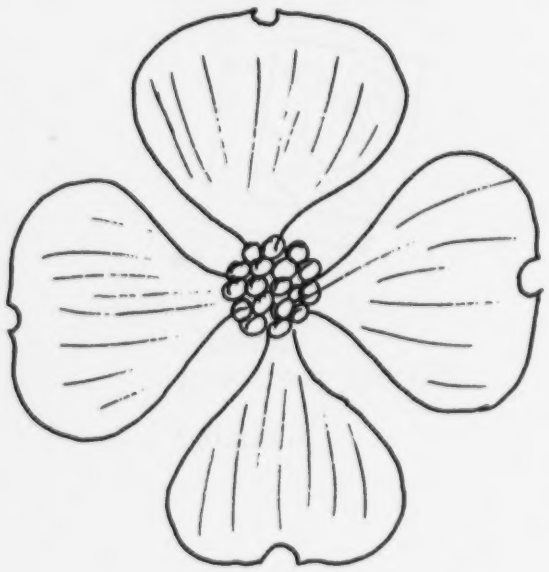
Scissors



PROCEDURE

Cut a large number of pieces of newspaper like the pattern; accuracy of cutting is not necessary. Bend the coat hanger into a circle with the hook kept intact for hanging. Twist the pieces of paper around the wire, folding each piece separately and giving each one or two twists. Push paper together until the circle of wire is completely filled. Fluff out the paper to look like leaves. Spray the whole with gold spray. Tie a large bow of red or any preferred color near the handle. These make pretty decorations for the classroom or home.

Dogwood Blossoms



MATERIALS

Newspaper
Glue or paste
White, green, brown, and pink paints

TOOLS

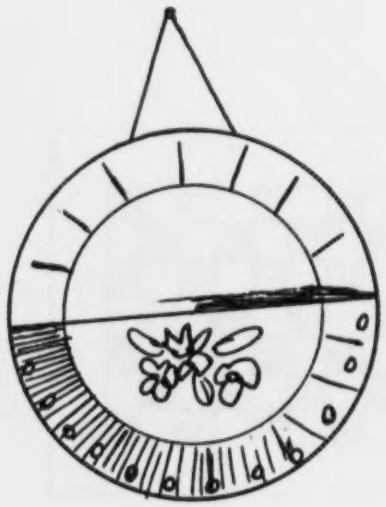
Scissors

PROCEDURE

Paste together smoothly four sheets of newspaper. Cut out a dogwood pattern like the illustration. When the pasted sheets are dry, cut out blossoms by the pattern. Paint white with a green center and add a touch of pink and brown to the outer center edge of each petal. These look very real when attached to a branch or small tree.

PROJECT

Wall Pocket



MATERIALS

Two 8″ paper plates
Paper fasteners (brads)
Pictures from magazine
Clear shellac
Yarn
Paste

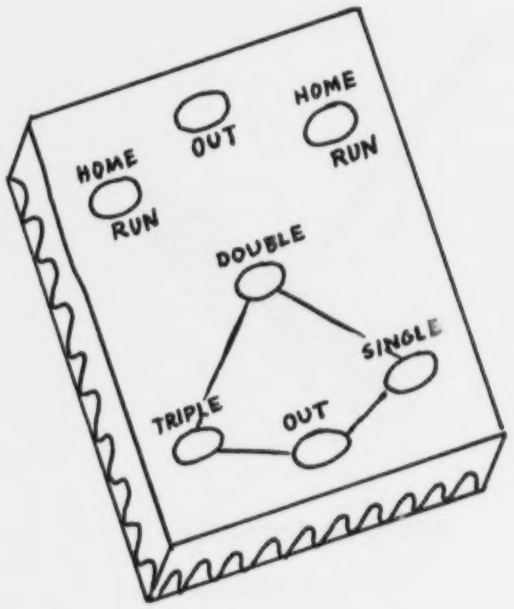
TOOLS

Hole punchers
Scissors

PROCEDURE

Cut one plate in half and place over other plate with hollow parts of the plates facing each other. Mark places to punch holes for paper fasteners. Punch 2 small holes for a cord to hang pocket on the wall. Lace the plates together with bright colored yarn. Paste pictures on half plate and shellac, using 2 coats.

Baseball-Button Game



MATERIALS

Box 10″ x 14″
Construction paper
Buttons

TOOLS

Scissors or knife

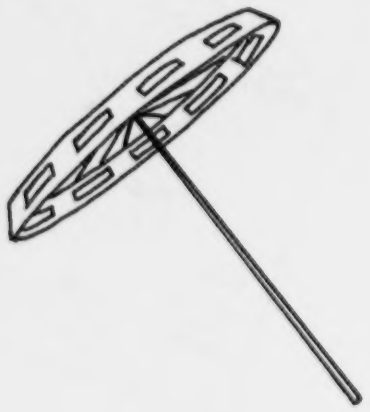
PROCEDURE

Cut holes in box at positions shown about 2 inches in diameter for bases. Cut base lines from construction paper and paste in place.

To play game, stand 5 or 6 feet from box. Toss or flip buttons as in tiddly-winks. Play game and keep score by baseball rules.

PROJECT

Umbrella or Parasol



MATERIALS

One 9″ paper plate
One round stick 10″ long
Crayons or water paint
One thumbtack
Old ribbon or crepe paper (optional)

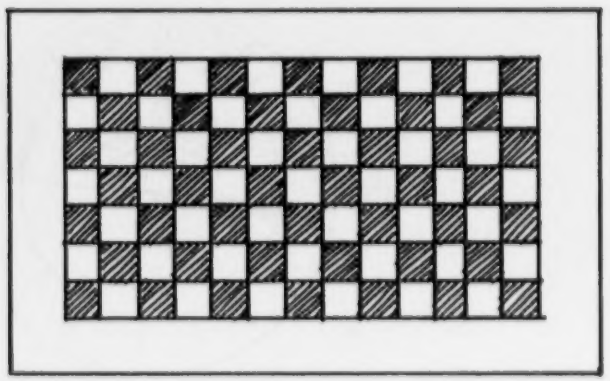
TOOLS

Scissors

PROCEDURE

Color or paint plate to look like an umbrella including the painting of umbrella ribs on the inside of the plate. Attach paper plate to round stick with thumbtack. In order to dress up umbrella into a parasol, simply cut one inch incisions around paper plate every one inch and weave ribbon or crepe paper around the plate in and out of these incisions.

Paper Place Mats



MATERIALS

One piece of brown wrapping paper 12″ x 18″
Strips of colored construction paper 20″ x ½″
Pencil
Paste

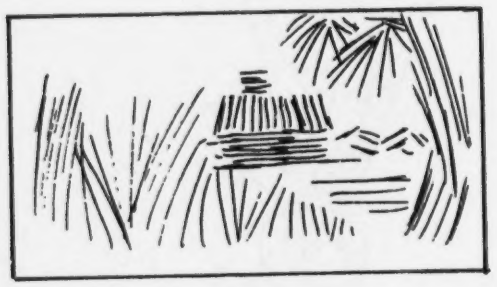
TOOLS

Scissors and ruler

Fold wrapping paper double so that size is 6″ x 18″. Starting at the folded edge, draw lines with ruler and pencil almost all the way to the edge; space lines one inch apart. Use scissors and cut along the penciled lines. Use two different colored construction paper strips and weave in and out of slits. Alternate over and under with every other strip being under and over. Paste ends of strips to the under edge of the finished mat. Many different patterns can be made by using several colors or by changing the pattern of weaving.

PROJECT

Straw Pictures



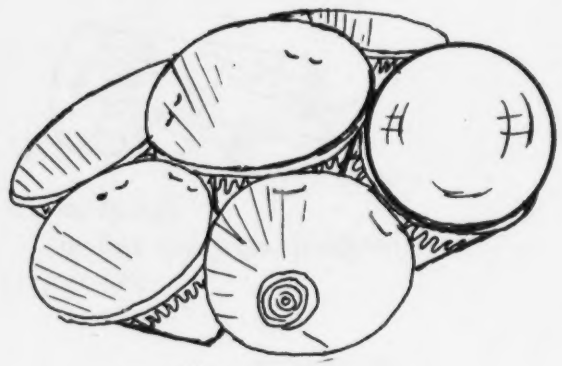
MATERIALS

Colored straws
Construction paper
Paste
Scissors
Crayons

PROCEDURE

Draw an outline of the picture to be made on the construction paper. Use colored straws cut to fit picture and paste. Use crayons to color background of picture.

Kissing Ball for Christmas Decoration



MATERIALS

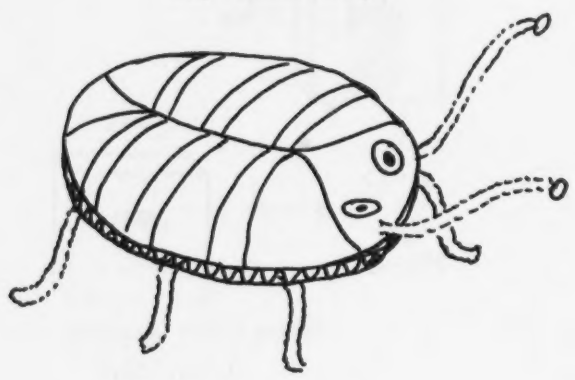
5 oz. pointed paper cups
Small Christmas tree balls
Gold or silver paint
Glitter
Mistletoe
Ribbon

TOOLS

Stapler

Staple 5 cups around one central cup. Staple 9 cups around this group. This makes half of the ball. Repeat the above and staple the two halves together. Spray with paint, use glitter, then glue one ball in each cup. Attach bow at top with ribbon for hanging and put mistletoe at bottom.

Gay Giant Bugs



MATERIALS

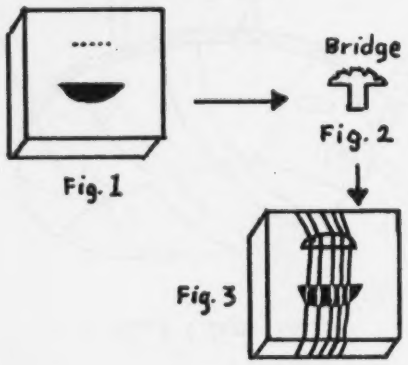
Corrugated cardboard
Tempera paint
Assorted colored pipe cleaners
Wire

TOOLS

Scissors

Draw the outline for the body crosswise on this cardboard and cut out. Insert pipe cleaners for legs. Paint with tempera paints. Insert wire for antennas.

PROJECT
Rubber band Banjo



MATERIALS

Box 4 inches square and 1 inch deep
Rubber bands
Scotch tape

TOOLS

Scissors or single-edged razor blade

PROCEDURE

Make hole and slot in the cover as in figure 1. Fashion a bridge from cardboard. Put in slot and stand upright. Fasten cover on box with scotch tape. Place varying sizes of rubber bands over bridge of box.

Roly-Poly
(a gift for baby brother or sister)

MATERIALS

One oatmeal box
Handful of dried beans
Piece of string
Scotch tape
Tempera paint or decals

TOOLS

Scissors

PROCEDURE

Punch holes in top and bottom of oatmeal box. Fill the box with a handful of dried beans. Pull a string through the punched holes and tie ends of string together. Use scotch tape to seal on box top. Paint roly-poly and decorate with a design.

Snowmen
(ornaments)

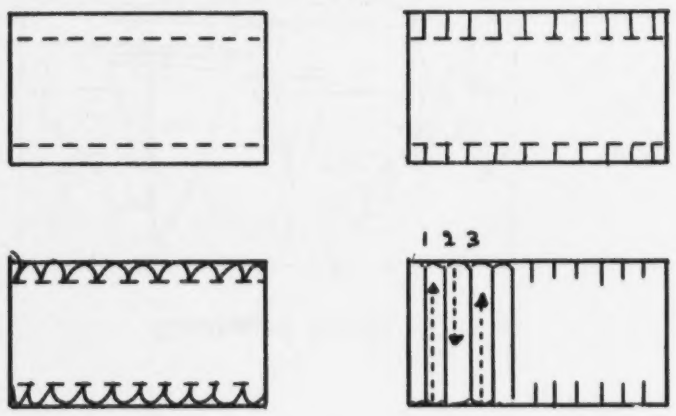
MATERIALS

Styrofoam or lightbulb
Cone-shaped cardboard
Scraps of materials
Buttons
Paste
Soapsuds or canned snow

PROCEDURE

Place old lightbulb or round styrofoam on top of cone for head. (Cones of this type can be secured from textile mill.) Make hat and scarf from bits of materials. Paste on paper faces and buttons. Spray with beaten soapsuds or canned snow.

Cardboard Purse Loom



MATERIALS

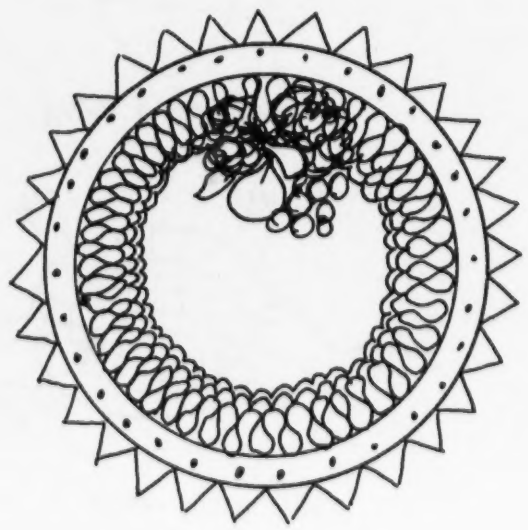
Stocking or shoe box
Yarn
Wool
Cotton
Ruler
Scissors

PROCEDURE

Make box desired size. Draw lines ½″ from top and bottom. Cut slits down the lines ¼″ apart at top and bottom. Tie yarn through each bottom slit once, each top slit twice. Take yarn down front through slit up back. Weaving is done under one string and over the other.

Take yarn down front through the slit up back through slit (1) with knot across to right through slit (2) down back through slit up front (3) across to right through slit (4) and continue.

Wall Plaques



MATERIALS

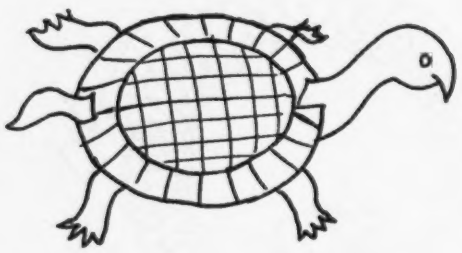
One discarded 8″ pie plate
Two 10″ plastic doilies
Nu or Elmer's glue
Flower fruit or vegetable
Craft strip

PROCEDURE

Cut doily about 2½ inches from the outside leaving a hole in the center. Glue the cut-out piece to the inside of the pie plate. Place the whole or uncut doily to the bottom. Place the cut piece on the top matching the designs. Use craft strip to sew in and out in the round holes near the "V" of the doily. Just before tying, place fruit, flower, or vegetable and hook with craft strip, then tie on top of doily.

PROJECT

Paper Plate Turtle



MATERIALS

Oaktag (flexible cardboard)
Paste and tempera
Paper plate

PROCEDURE

Cut head, neck, legs and tail out of oaktag. Paint with green tempera and paste to plate.

Paper Plate Clown

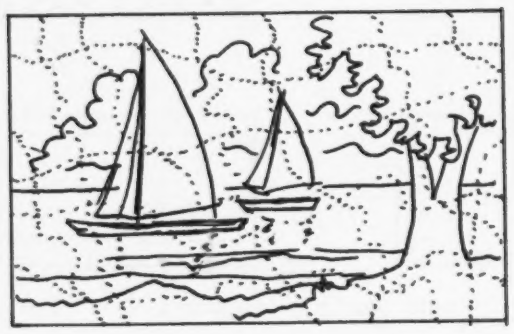
MATERIALS

Colored construction paper
Paste
Ballon
Paper plate

PROCEDURE

Cut hat, eyes, mouth, and ears from colored construction paper and paste to plate. Inflate balloon and push through a small hole in center of plate.

Cardboard Puzzle



MATERIALS

Picture
Cardboard
Paste

TOOLS

Single-edged razor or knife

PROCEDURE

Cut a picture from a magazine or draw and color a picture to fit cardboard. Paste picture on cardboard. When dry, mark off picture by drawing lines through it. Cut along lines with razor to make pieces of puzzle desired sizes and shapes.

PROJECT

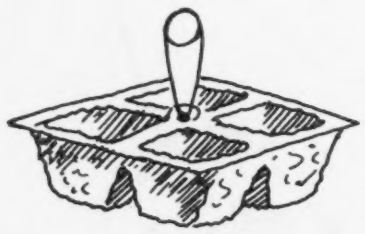
Candy and Nut Cups

MATERIALS

Egg Cartons
Colored pipe cleaners
Enamel paint

PROCEDURE

Cut egg cartons into sections of four cups each. Pierce hole in center of each section. Insert and secure looped, colored pipe cleaner. Coat outside of sections with enamel paint. Fill with candy and nuts.



Cup and Saucer Holder

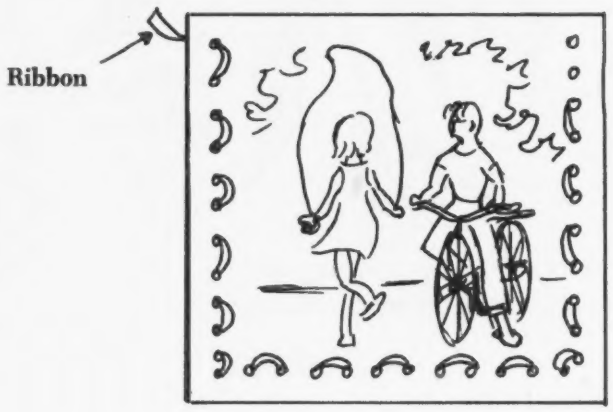
MATERIALS

One ½ gallon milk carton
Paint

PROCEDURE

Cut off top of a half-gallon milk carton, and cut down three sides to ½″ from bottom, for back of holder. Cut a notch 1″ from back on each side to hold saucer. Set cup on carton bottom.

Work Folder



MATERIALS

Large sheets of colored construction paper
Tape or ribbon
Paste
Old magazines
Paper punch

PROCEDURE

Fold a sheet of construction paper in half. Punch holes through both thicknesses on each side. Lace with tape or ribbon. Cut out a few interesting pictures from old magazines and paste them on folder to form a collage. Pen and ink drawing can be added to make the collage more effective.

PROJECT

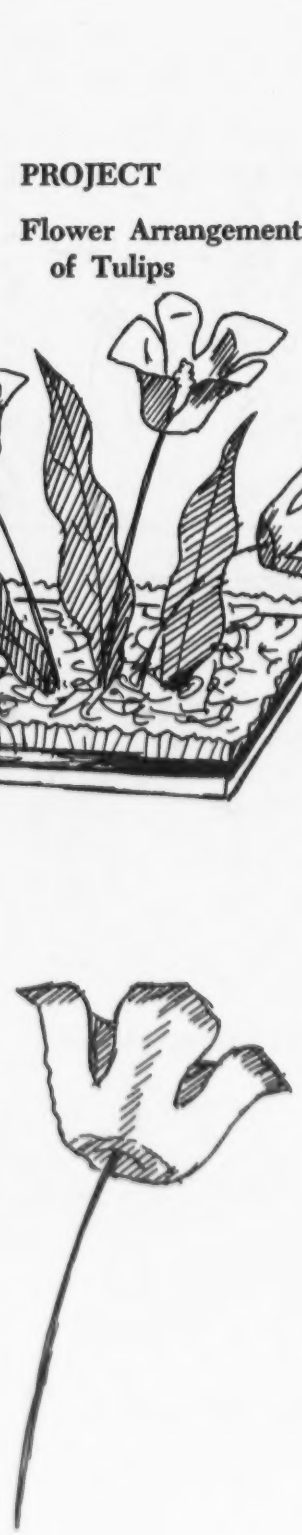
Flower Arrangement of Tulips

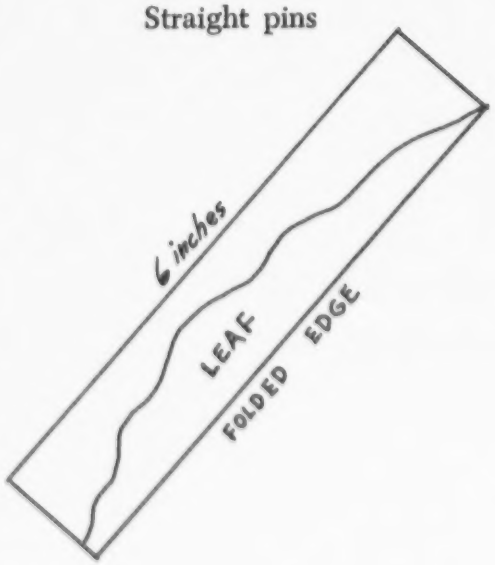
MATERIALS

Egg cartons
Inch-thick styrofoam, 4″ x 7½″
Pipe cleaners
Green construction paper
Crepe paper, desired color
Green tissue excelsior (optional)
Tempera paints

TOOLS

Sharp knife or scissors
Stapler
Straight pins





PROCEDURE

Cut a piece of 1 inch thick styrofoam into a 4 x 7½ inch piece for the flower container. Cut a strip of crepe paper of the desired color about two inches wide and a yard long and pleat or ruffle it around the edge of the styrofoam. Keep the lower edge flush with the bottom and the top edge extending above. The ruffle can be secured on the styrofoam by a band of ribbon or paper and pinned in place. Make tulip leaves of green construction paper as illustrated.

Make tulips by cutting out each cup in the egg carton. Remove the top of the carton and cut between the rows of cups with a very sharp knife or scissors. Make each cup into a tulip, using the outside of the carton for the outside of the flower. Paint the flowers different colors. Put a pipe cleaner through the base of the blossom for a stem, crooking the end to keep it in place. Staple the flower stems into the blunt end of the leaf and stick several into the styrofoam. If desired, the green paper excelsior that comes in Easter baskets can be scattered over the styrofoam. Containers can be made different shapes and sizes. These make attractive table decorations for parties.

PROJECT

Merry-Go-Round

MATERIALS

Two paper plates
One large can
One cone-shaped paper cup
Nine striped drink straws
Construction paper
Glue

TOOLS

Scissors
Hand punch

PROCEDURE

Wrap construction paper around one large can to decorate. Cut out small pictures of different animals and paste on construction paper. Punch eight holes in one plate evenly spaced. Place this plate on other plate and punch holes in new plate to match those in the first. Place can between two plates and fit eight straws around can into holes that have been punched in plates. (Striped straws will add the carnival look.) Punch single hole in middle of top plate and place straw in hole. Add cone-shaped paper cup on top by running straw through cup. Add paper flag to decorate flag pole at top of merry-go-round.

Paper Bag Owl

MATERIALS

One medium large paper bag
Black construction paper
Tempera paint
Strips of nylon hose
Glue

TOOLS

Scissors
Stapler

PROCEDURE

Decorate bottom of paper bag as owl's face. Paint eyes yellow and cut out black rings for outer edge of eyes. Cut out ears and nose and glue them on face. Staple bottom of bag so that this part will not open. Next take 2 strips of nylon hose about 4-6 inches long and tie bottom end of bag together after wrinkling and opening bag so that owl's body will take on a long round shape. Cut out tree limb from construction paper. Tack owl and limb on bulletin board. For more detailed art work, student can either paint on wings or cut out wings from construction paper.

BLOCK LETTERS

The art of cutting block letters is profitable and meaningful for both teacher and pupils. It is helpful in making posters and charts, and labeling materials more attractively. It also serves as a device for teaching the alphabet. Choose the size of letter to make. For example, for five-inch letters, cut 26 blocks five-inches square. This makes every letter the same size. Use a ruler to make sure all the parts of the letters are the same thickness when you mark the areas to be cut out in steps 3 and 5.

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The five steps to follow are:

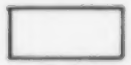
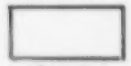
Step 1. Choose the size square for the sized letter desired.

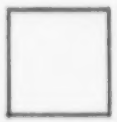
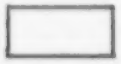
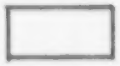
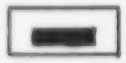
Step 2. Fold the square in half.

Step 3. Mark and then cut out the shaded area as shown in the illustration.

Step 4. Open up the square.

Step 5. Mark and cut out the areas to complete the letter.

	STEP 1.	STEP 2.	STEP 3.	STEP 4.	STEP 5.
B		FOLD IN HALF HORIZONTAL  FOLD	CUT OUT THE SHADED AREA FOLD	OPEN and it looks like this	CLIP OUT shaded areas on sides
D		 FOLD	FOLD		

	STEP 1.	STEP 2.	STEP 3.	STEP 4.	STEP 5.
E		 FOLD	FOLD		CUT
F		 FOLD	 FOLD		CUT

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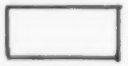
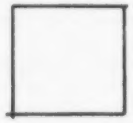
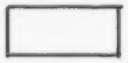
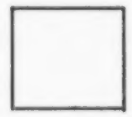
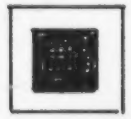
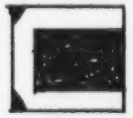
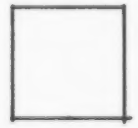
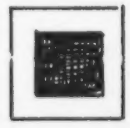
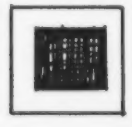
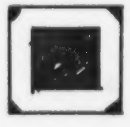
P		 Fold	Fold		
R		 Fold	Fold		
C		Fold	Fold		
G		Fold	Fold		
O		Fold	Fold		

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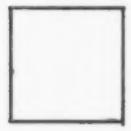
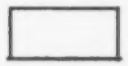
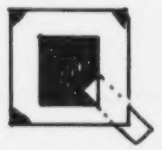
Q					
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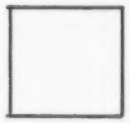
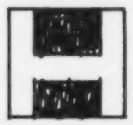
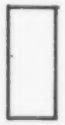
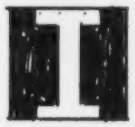
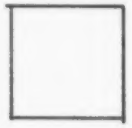
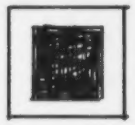
H					
I					
J					

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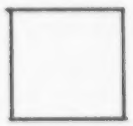
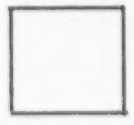
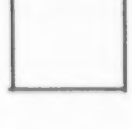
V					
W					
X					

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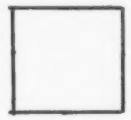
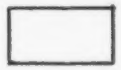
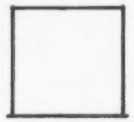
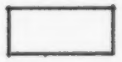
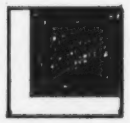
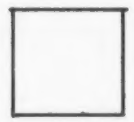
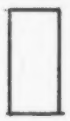
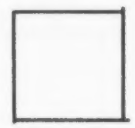
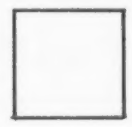
K					
L					
M					
N					
S					

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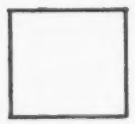
Y					
Z					

Salt
Yarn
Cloth
and PLASTIC

FABRICS

It is necessary for children to know something about fabrics. The texture of different fabrics is important to the child who is retarded, especially to the child who might have a sight handicap also.

The feel of fabrics helps a child to learn how they may be used in their clothing and for other purposes.

Example:

Wool is soft and warm to the touch, therefore it is easier for the child to know that it is good to have warm clothes for cold weather.

It would be worthwhile to show your class cards containing swatches of the different kinds of fabrics. With a tangible object to examine, a child finds fabrics more meaningful.

After a child becomes familiar with fabrics, it will be necessary to have the following tools for projects that require fabrics.

Scissors—Medium-sized scissors with rather sharp points are recommended. Don't cut paper with these scissors as paper dulls the blades. For finishing seam edges and cutting out felt, a pair of pinking shears does a very neat, attractive job.

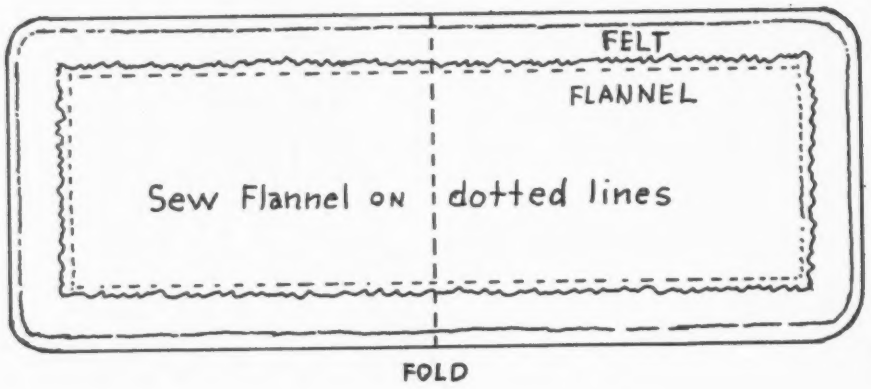
Needles and thread—Sewing needles come in many sizes from a small quilting needle to a large darning needle. Always choose a needle a little thicker than the thread you're using.

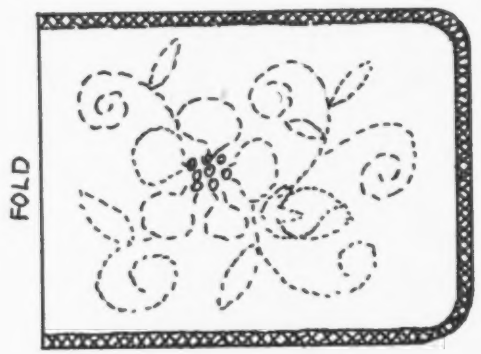
Thimble—Get the habit right from the start. The thimble should fit on the tip of your middle finger. You can use either the side or the tip of the thimble to push the needle through the materials.

Tape measure or ruler—A 36-inch tape measure is easy to use when you measure around things; otherwise you may use a ruler or yardstick.

PROJECT

Needle Case





MATERIALS

Felt
Thread
Flannel
Needle
Scissors

PROCEDURE

Cut the pattern from felt. Fold in half on dotted line. Make a design with beads or sequins or embroider it on the front. Cut a piece of flannel smaller than the felt on the inside of the pattern. Place flannel piece inside felt piece and sew together along dotted line. Fold case in half. Work blanket stitch around edges of felt.

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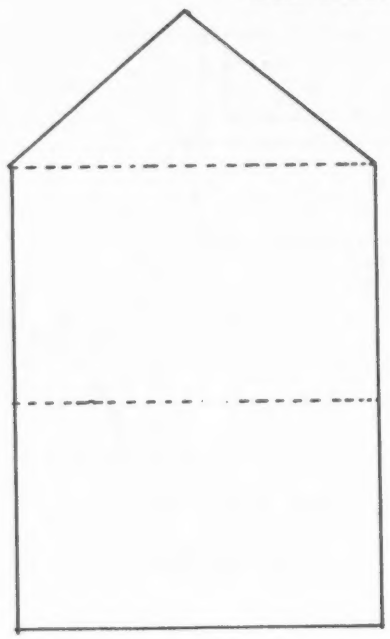
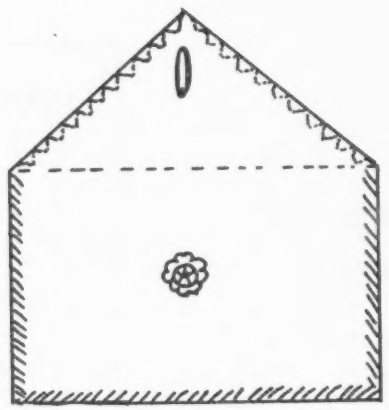
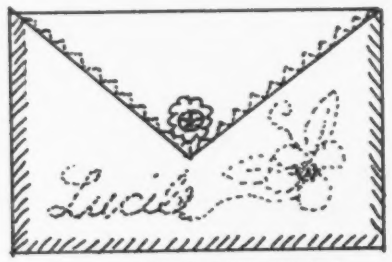
PROJECT

Felt Purse







MATERIALS

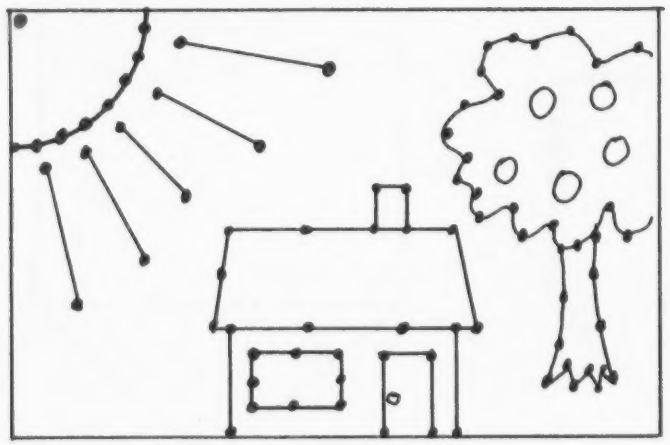
Felt
Embroidery yarn
Sequins
Buttons

PROCEDURE

Cut felt to form simple envelope. Pinking shears make a nice edge when cutting out the purse. Sew each side with embroidery yarn of contrasting colors. Cut buttonhole in flap and sew button on corresponding place on body of purse. Decorate with sequins.

PROJECT

Sewing Cards



MATERIALS

Posterboard material or cardboard
Small nail
Big needles
Colored yarn

TOOLS

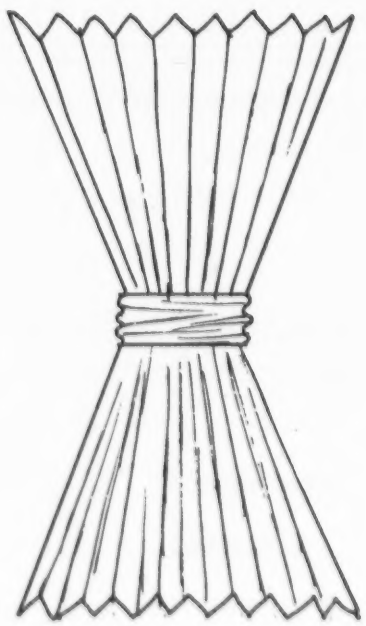
Hammer

PROCEDURE

Cut out posterboard or cardboard about 6″ x 4″. Draw design and then take a small nail and punch through each of the black dots that you space along lines. Sew through the punched holes with a big blunt needle and different colored yarns. This work especially appeals to younger children.

PROJECT

Scouring Rosette



MATERIALS

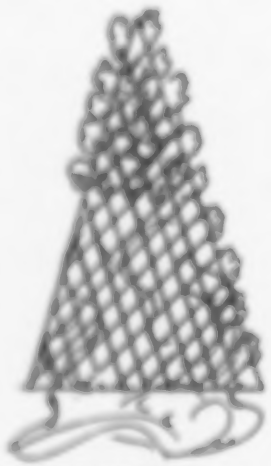
Colorful plastic mesh bag (such as vegetables come in)
Cord

PROCEDURE

For a scouring rosette, fanfold one bag into 1″ pleats. Wrap cord around center and tie securely. (This makes a pretty trim for a package also).

PROJECT

Plastic Bag Christmas Tree



MATERIALS

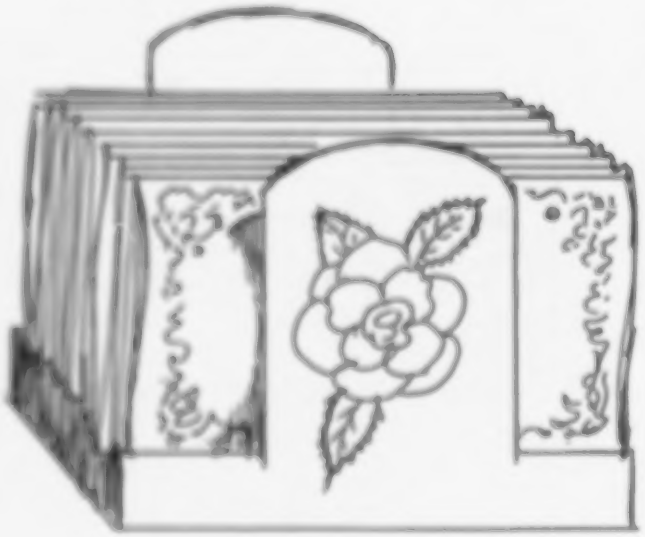
Chicken wire
Plastic bags
Scissors

PROCEDURE

Shape chicken wire into a cone for the tree base. Starting at the top, pull the end of a plastic bag through a hole of the wire. Cut and fluff. Continue until the tree is covered. Decorate with small balls, cut paper, or ribbon.

PROJECT

Letter or Napkin Holder



MATERIALS

One quart plastic bleach bottle
Knife
Jewels, decals, or other types of decoration

PROCEDURE

Use the bottom 7″ of a quart plastic bleach bottle. Remove 1½″ wide strip from opposite sides of the bottle by cutting from top edge to within ½″ of bottom. Round off the top corners on front and back. Paint or decorate as desired.

PROJECT

Cloth Scrap Pictures

MATERIALS

Cloth of all colors and textures (upholstery material is especially good since it will give a 3-D effect)
Cardboard or construction paper
Glue
Scissors

PROCEDURE

Suggest children plan simple pictures using general areas rather than a lot of details. When pieces have been cut and arranged, they can be glued on the paper with rubber cement.

PROJECT

Stitchery

MATERIALS

Yarn
Remnants
Ribbon
Sequins
Buttons
Burlap or any heavy cloth

PROCEDURE

Outline the design on the burlap with desired colors of yarn. Use a simple stitch. Cover areas with cloth remnants or more yarn. This could be a project for a group or an individual in making a mural.

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PROJECT

Paper Weights

MATERIALS

Ash tray
Felt or construction paper
Picture of self or one from magazine
Glue

PROCEDURE

Use ash tray with smooth bottom. Have each child bring a picture of himself or one from a magazine. Fasten to the bottom with glue. Surround picture with a felt or construction paper.

PROJECT

Burlap Bookends

MATERIALS

Two ½ gal. milk cartons
Sand
Rubber cement
Felt-tip pen
Burlap
Masking tape

PROCEDURE

Fill the 2 milk cartons with sand. Use masking tape to fasten shut. Cover with burlap. The burlap is rubber cemented to the cartons (an oblong piece wrapped around the carton, and squares of burlap covering the ends). The burlap may be decorated, using colored felt-tip pens for Indian motifs.

PROJECT

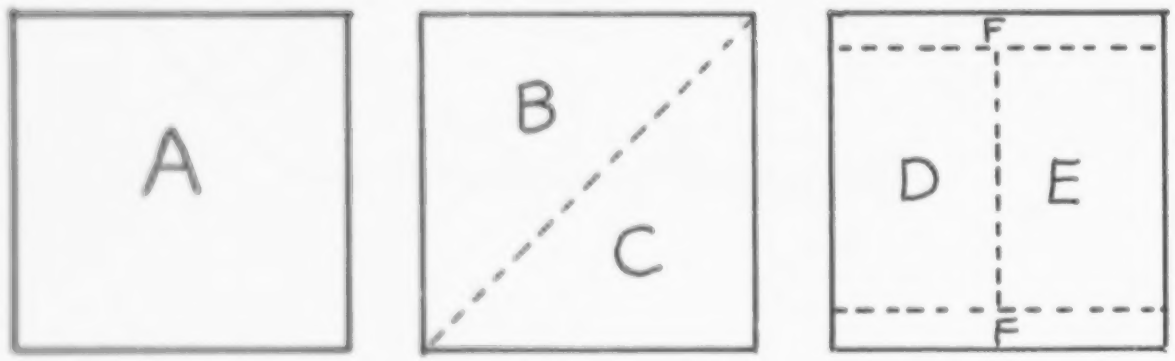
Three-Hanky Apron

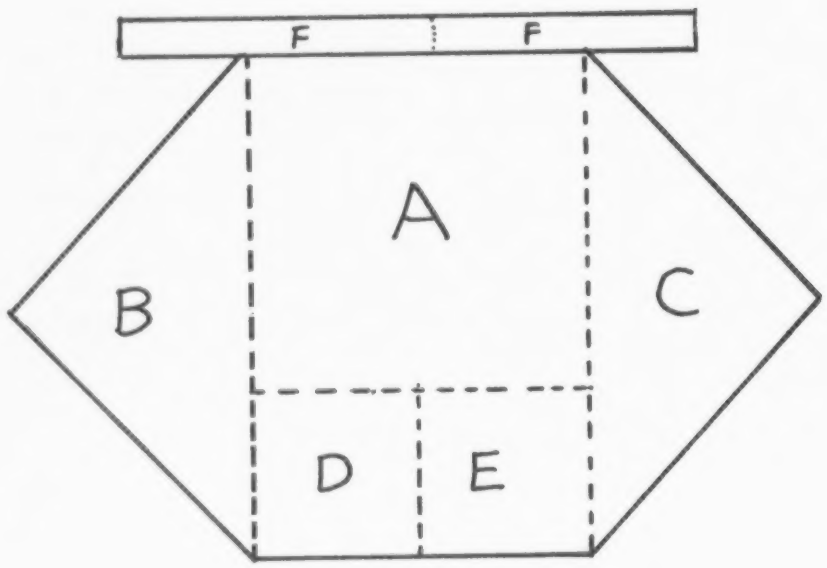
MATERIALS

Three handkerchiefs
Scissors
Thread
Needle

PROCEDURE

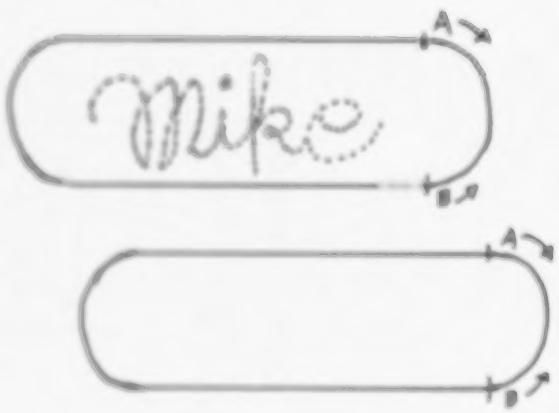
Use 3 identical handkerchiefs. Cut as diagram shows.





PROJECT

Personalized Eyeglass Case



MATERIALS

Felt
Thread (wool yarn, etc.)
Scissors
Needle

PROCEDURE

Cut 2 pieces of felt exactly alike. Trace the name you wish to use on one side. Embroider it in outline stitch. Baste the two pieces together, leaving one end open from A to B. Work blanket stitch around edges. When you come to open end, work blanket stitch around each piece separately.

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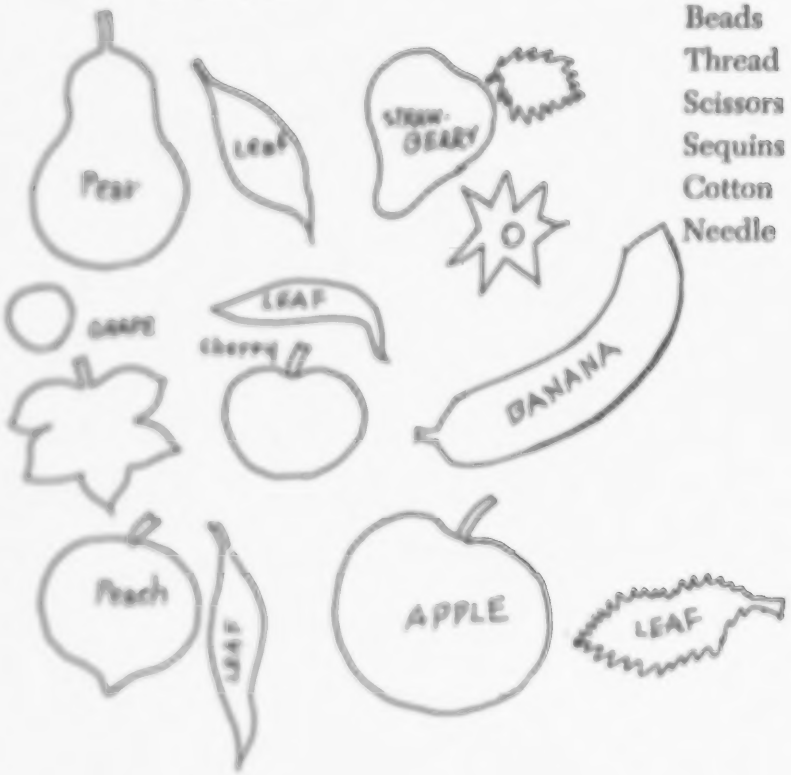
PROJECT

Fruit Pins



MATERIALS

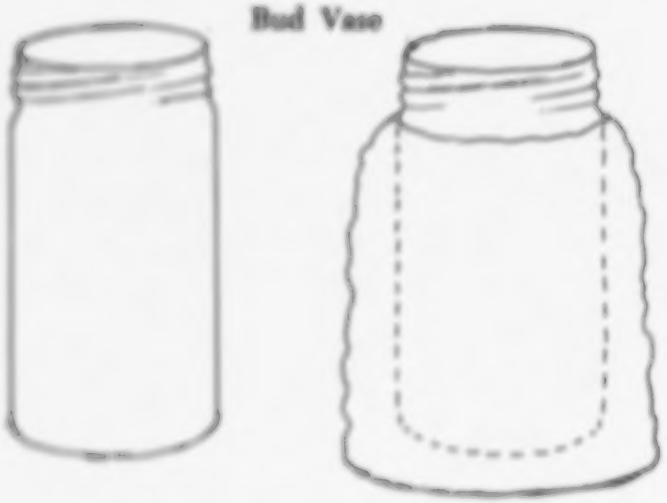
Felt
Beads
Thread
Scissors
Sequins
Cotton
Needle

PROCEDURE

Cut the desired fruit pieces in duplicate from felt. Add leaves and stems as desired. With tiny stitches in matching thread, sew the two pieces together, leaving an opening for stuffing. Stuff with cotton. Use felt for the stems, except for longer stems, such as on the cherries, use braided lightweight yarn. When making grapes, finish each individual grape; then sew finished grapes together to form bunch. To finish fruit, cover it with sequins or beads in the proper color. Add a safety pin to back of felt for your pin.

PROJECT

Bud Vase



MATERIALS

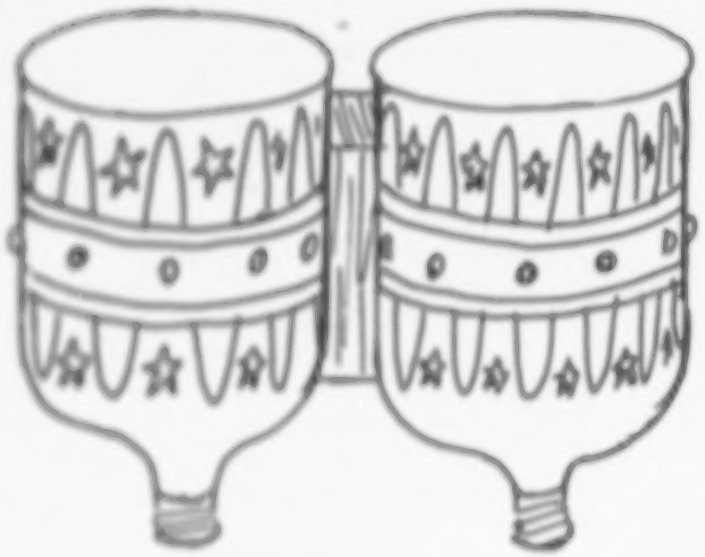
Plastic pill bottle
Good quality self-hardening clay
Poster or enamel paint
Clear shellac

PROCEDURE

The plastic pill bottle will be the flower container, so mold clay around it. Be sure that each vase has a fairly wide, even base for balance. After modeling is finished, slip plastic pill bottle out while the clay dries. (Bottle must slip in and out easily, as it must be removed from the clay before being filled to avoid getting clay wet.) After clay has dried thoroughly, decorate with paint. Two coats of clear shellac should be applied to the surface if you use poster paint.

PROJECT

Jug Drums



MATERIALS

Empty plastic bleach jugs
1" x 3" wooden block
Masking tape
Decorative items
Glue

PROCEDURE

Decorate all but the bottom of jugs as desired. Remove cap and hold upside down between the knees and beat on the bottom with fingertips. For a variation, put two jugs or different sizes side by side with wooden block separating them and tape together with masking tape.

PROJECT

Curler Bag

MATERIALS

King size clorox bottle
Strip of fabric 6½" x 24"
Thread to match
Embroidered tape
Beads (optional)

PROCEDURE

Cut bottle just below top of center section. Hem bottom edge of fabric. Make deep hem at top with 2 rows of stitching spaced to hold drawstring. Sew side seam and make eyelets on outside of drawstring channel on both sides of seam. Punch holes ¼ inch below top rim of plastic and lace to bottom edge of fabric. Glue embroidered tape over this seam and at the ridge near the bottom of the bottle. Tie ends of drawstrings together or tip with beads.

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PROJECT

String Holder

MATERIALS

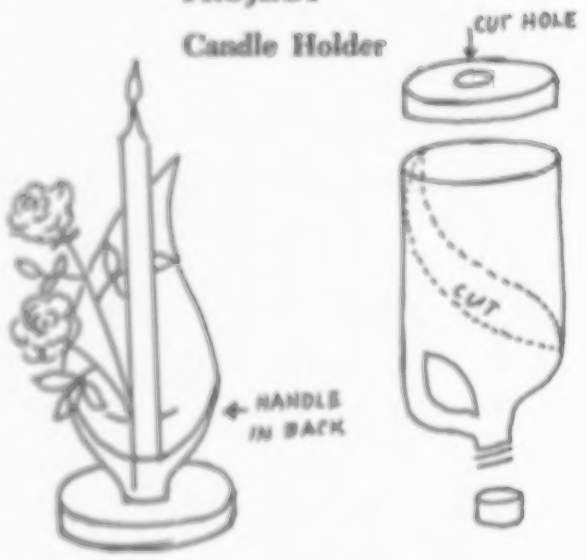
Small tin can with lid or a small clorox bottle
Small squares of print material
Yarn

PROCEDURE

Paint face on bottom of carton, cut down to 3". Punch hole for mouth. Add yarn for hair. Hem a square of material and tie it around the face on can.

PROJECT

Candle Holder



MATERIALS

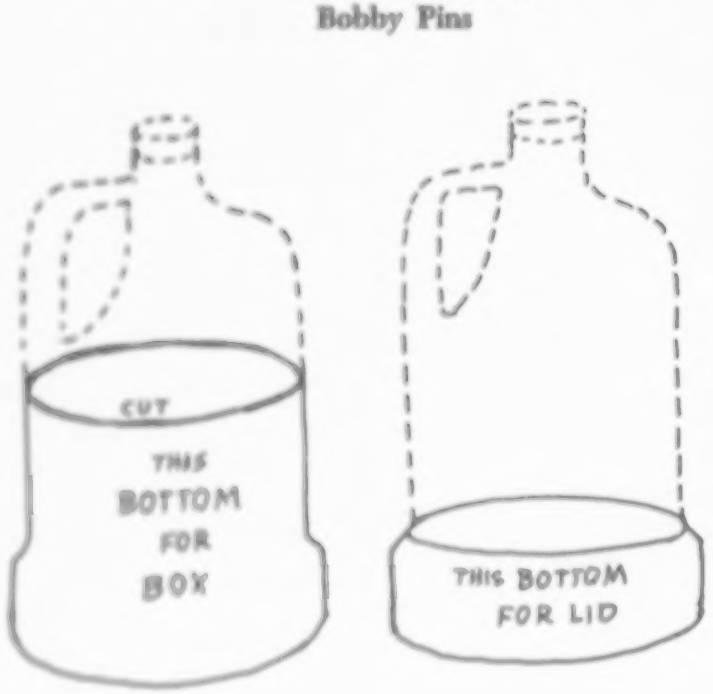
Half-gallon bleach bottle
Paint
Artificial flowers
Candle

PROCEDURE

Cut off bottom of a half gallon bottle along the indentation near the bottom. Invert this piece for the base. Invert the upper section of the bottle and cut along dotted line. Insert the bottle neck of this piece in a hole cut in the center of the base and replace bottle cap on underside to hold in place. Paint as desired and arrange artificial flowers in the handle opening. Use a candle taller than the highest point on the holder.

PROJECT

Box for Buttons or Bobby Pins



MATERIALS

Two qt. size clorox bottles
Spool
Two buttons
Long needle
Thread

PROCEDURE

Cut clorox quart bottle to height desired. Cut base from another quart for lid. Make knob by putting one large button on top of spool, another button on underside of lid and sew them together using a long needle and heavy thread.

PROJECT

Santa

MATERIALS

Clorox bottle
Red and pink paint
Construction paper
Cotton
Paint brushes
Scissors

PROCEDURE

Paint top portion of bleach bottle red for the hat. Paint rest of bottle pink. Glue on paper features and cotton beard, mustache, and fur.

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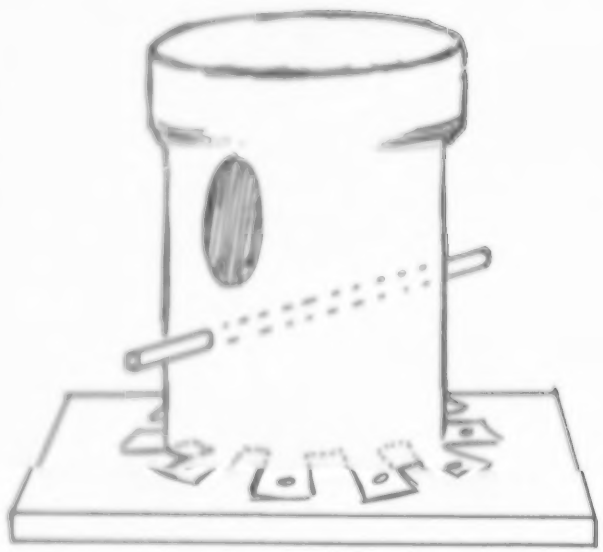
PROJECT

Bird House

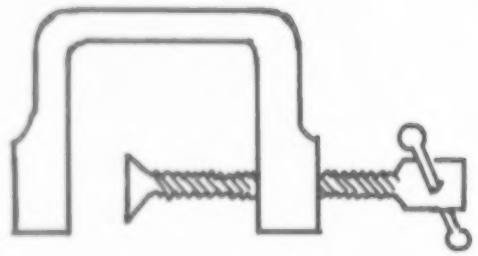


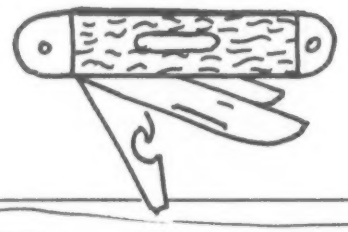
MATERIALS

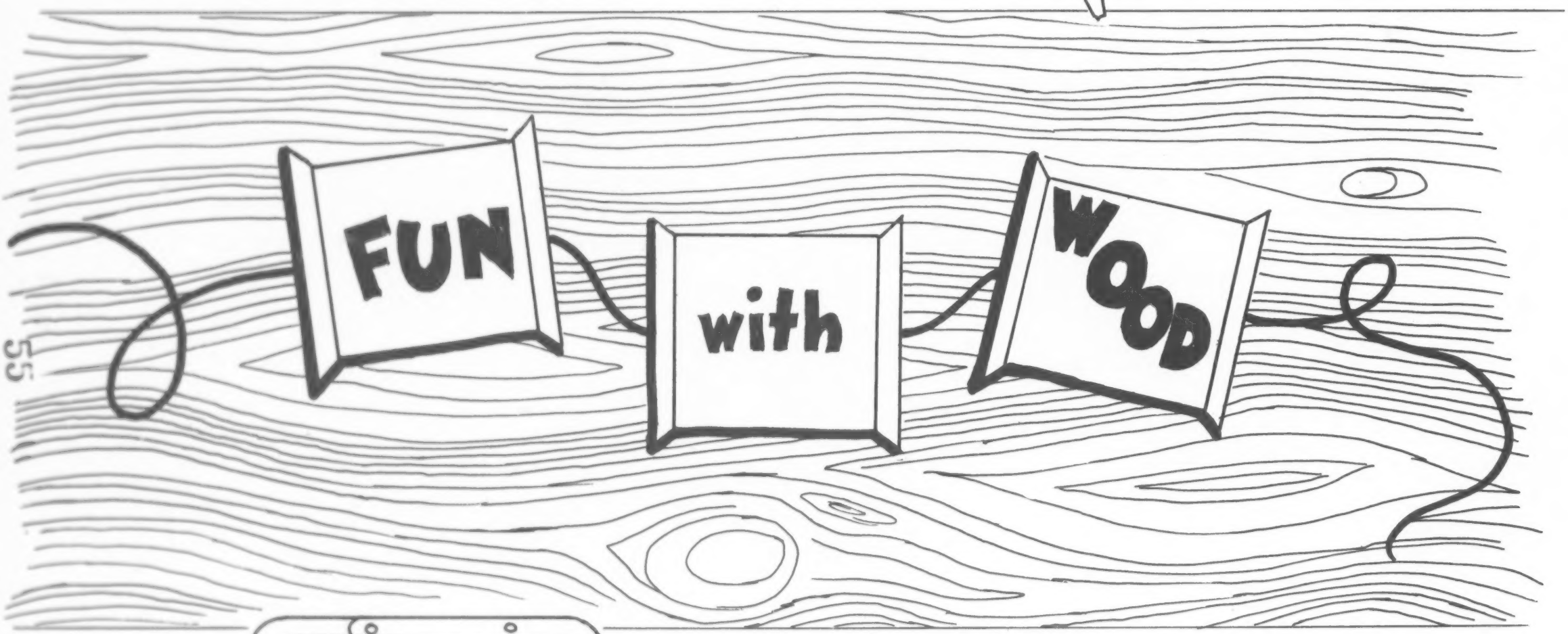
King size clorox bottle
Dowel stick
Scissors
Hammer
Nails

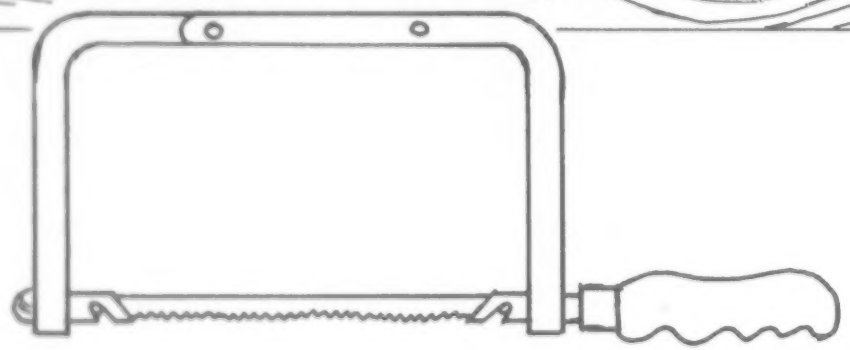
PROCEDURE

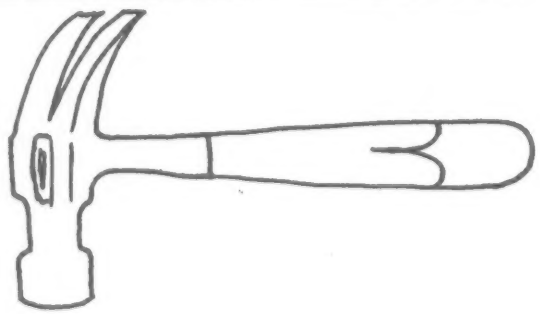
Cut clorox bottle to desired height. Turn bottom end up. Cut entrance hole. Punch one small hole below entrance and another on opposite side. Run stick through these two holes for perch. Make ½ inch slits 1 inch apart all around edge of open end. Fold alternate tabs inside and out, then nail outside tabs to a board.






FUN
with
WOOD





WOOD

Materials for wood crafts range from popsicle sticks to apple barrels; projects vary from simple wall plaques to locomotives (using a barrel for the boiler) or simple furniture made from boxes, boards, and crates. Tools consist of hammers, coping saws, screw drivers, carving tools, and handmade implements made from tenpenny nails. The following materials should be collected and stored.

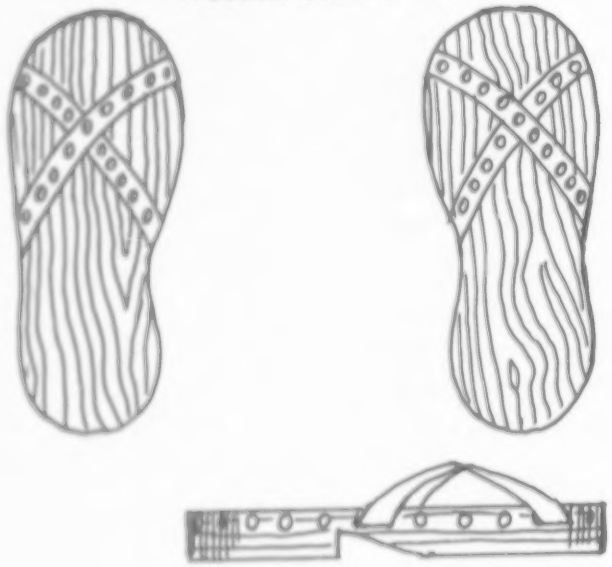
Broom and mop handles
Ice cream sticks
Wooden forks and spoons
Orange sticks
Berry boxes and baskets
Paddles from mustard jars
Cigar boxes
Cheese boxes
Crates
Small kegs
Wall board
Driftwood
Plywood
Chalk boxes
Clothes pins
Tongue depressors
Spools
Picture molding
Scrap lumber

The age and the competency of the children to be taught should be considered in working with wood since the tools required can constitute a danger. Constant supervision is necessary and instruction groups should be kept small. The proper use of tools and possible dangers from misuse and from careless handling should constitute the first lessons in woodcraft.

If heavy wood pieces are used, a sturdy work bench with an attached vise is essential. An industrial arts shop which can be shared by several classes during the school day is ideal. Where this is not feasible, one or two work benches can be set up in one corner of a classroom. This work area can double for other crafts activities as well. Wood projects should be useful or decorative, within the capability of the child, and simple enough to be completed before interest lags.

PROJECT

Wooden Shower Shoes



MATERIALS

Two blocks of wood 12″ x 5″ x 1½″
Strips of canvas
Thumb tacks (colored, if desired)
Paint
Shellac
Sandpaper

TOOLS

Hammer
Saw
Knife

PROCEDURE

Trace student's shoe prints on two blocks of wood. Have shop classes cut out the outer edge of shoes. Have student sandpaper shoes and then paint around sides with bright red, blue, or green paint. After paint dries, adjust two canvas straps across shoe to fit pupil's feet. Hold in place with thumb tacks. Shellac shoes. Further decorate shoes by putting thumb tacks all around sides. Older children can carve out a niche from bottom part of shoes to resemble a heel.

PROJECT

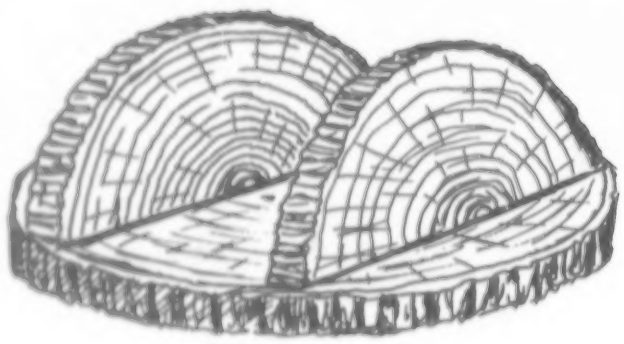
Rustic Letter Holder

MATERIALS

Two good sized log slices about 1″ thick
Glue

PROCEDURE

Suitable for a man's desk, this holder is made from two good sized log slices about 1″ thick. Use one slice for the base. Saw the other in half and glue the straight edges of these halves across the base, leaving space between for letters.



PROJECT

Novelty Box

MATERIALS

Eight penny size matchboxes
One 2″ square block of wood
Poster board
Tempera paint
Glue
Eight paper brads

TOOLS

Scissors

PROCEDURE

Glue four penny matchboxes on top of each other and then repeat with the other four boxes. Place the two inch square block between the two stacks of matchboxes and glue the block in this position. Paste pieces of poster board—plain or colored—across the top and on bottom of the two tiers of matchboxes and wooden block. If plain board is used, paint with tempera paint. Push the drawers out and make a small hole for inserting paper brads to serve as knobs for drawers. The last step is to glue a photograph on the wooden block. A photograph of the child makes the novelty box a good gift for parents. This box is excellent as a container for paper clips, thumb tacks, pins, stamps, or buttons.

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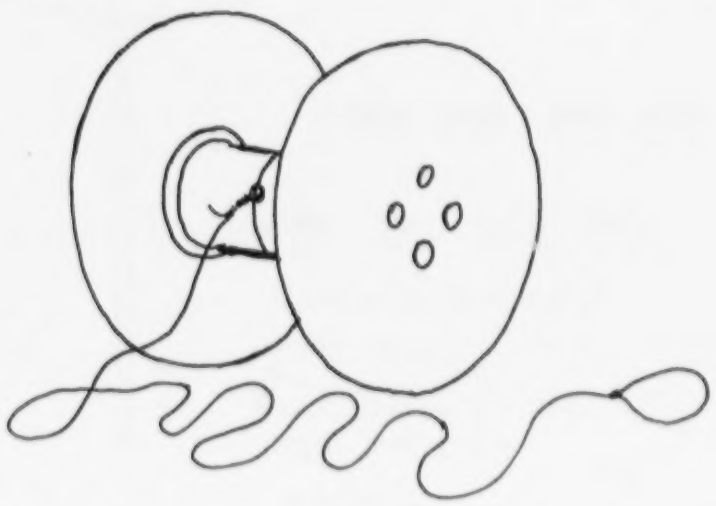
PROJECT

Yo-Yo



MATERIALS

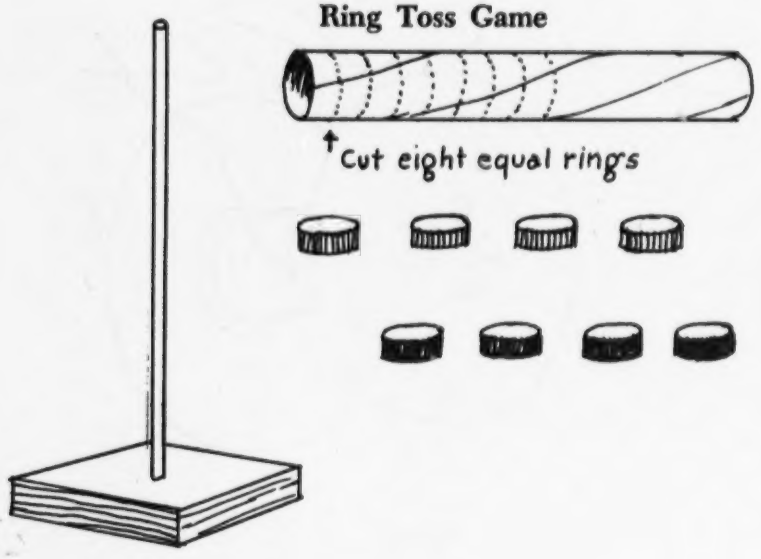
One-inch thread spool
String, 2½ feet long
Lids made of cardboard as those from cottage cheese cartons
Tacks
Crayons

PROCEDURE

Run the string through the spool and tie at the center. At the other end of the string, make a loop for the thumb. Fasten lids to each end of the spool with tacks. Decorate ends with crayon designs.

PROJECT

Ring Toss Game



MATERIALS

Paper towel roll
Two round sticks, 10″ long and about ¼″ in diameter
Colored yarn
Two 4″ squares of wood (can be cardboard)
Tempera paint
Two nails

TOOLS

Hammer
Knife

PROCEDURE

Cut ½″ rings from a paper towel roll. Paint rings and then wrap 4 rings with one color yarn and 4 rings with a different color. Cut 2 four-inch squares of wood for base of ring toss poles. Nail 1 round 10″ long stick to each base and then paint. Ring toss is played like horseshoes. Small children can use this material as a counting device.

PROJECT

Key Holder

MATERIALS

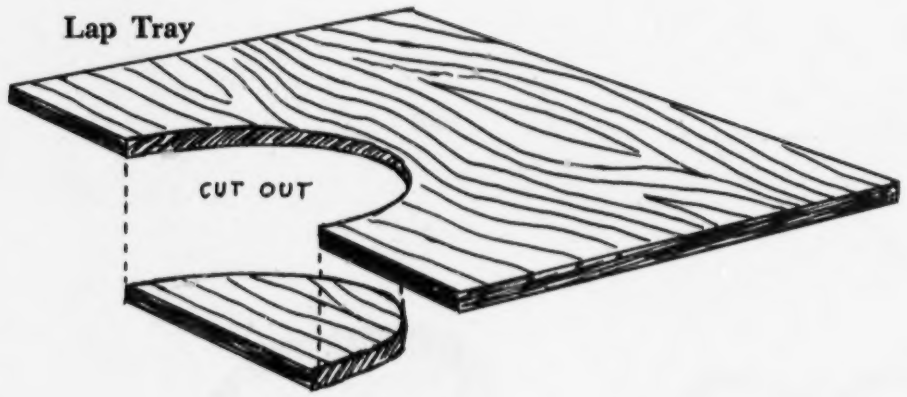
One-fourth inch plywood
Sandpaper
Decal
Shellac (clear)
Hooks
Brush

PROCEDURE

Cut or have keys cut from plywood. Sand away the roughness so that key will have smooth finish. Shellac. Allow to dry. Apply decal that may be purchased at dime stores. Put two or three hooks. Space as desired. The words car, office, garage or house may be written, painted or burned on them.

PROJECT

Lap Tray



MATERIALS

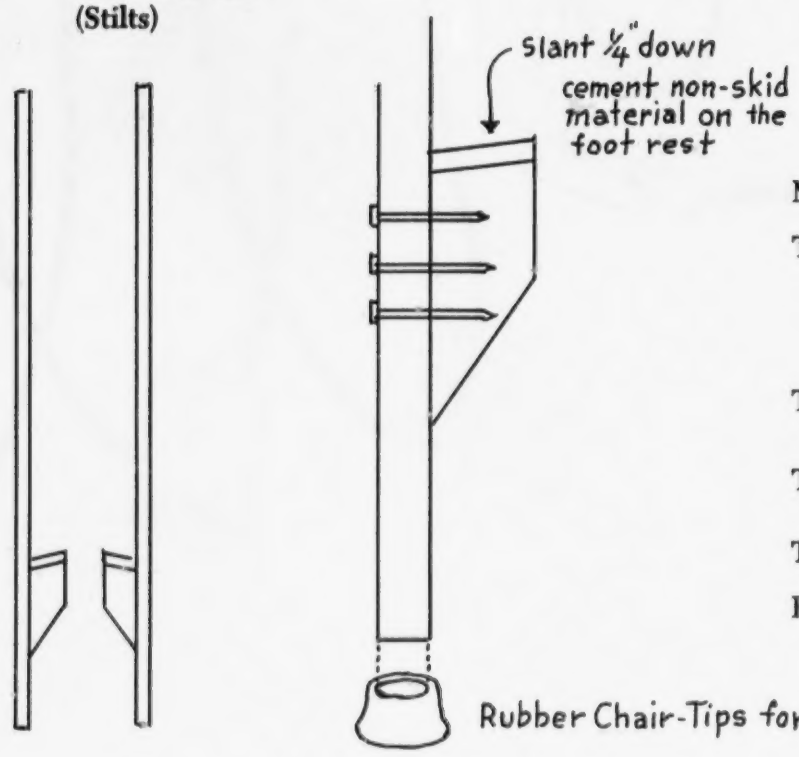
20″ x 36″ Plywood
Varnish
Wax
File
Stain
Shellac
Brush

PROCEDURE

On a 20″ x 36″ piece of plywood, measure and mark off the area to be cut away. With a saw, cut away a semicircle to fit the body. Apply stain. Let dry. Apply shellac. When dry, rub down with sandpaper and apply coat of varnish. Let dry. Rub down again with sandpaper and apply wax.

PROJECT

Tom Walkers
(Stilts)



MATERIALS

Two 6 ft. by 2 in. poles (get 2″ x 4″ and have shop class cut them)
Two blocks of wood 6″ x 4″ x 2″
Three or four inch nails

TOOLS

Hammer

PROCEDURE

Take small wooden blocks to be used as foot-rests and measure so the top part of foot-rests will be 18 inches off the ground. Nail four nails through pole to hold each foot rest in place. Children will enjoy playing on Tom Walkers during outside recess or after school.

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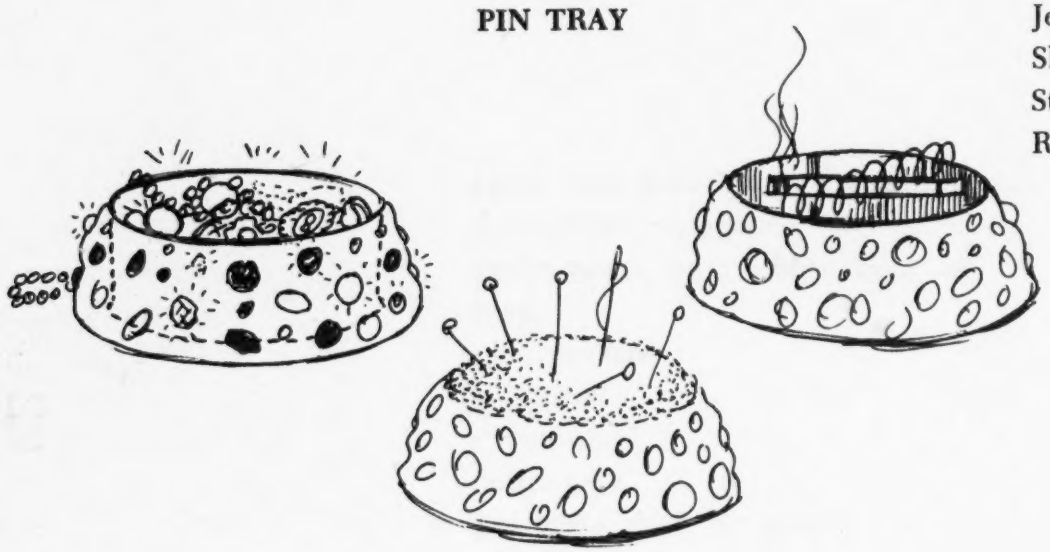
METAL

There are many metal materials which are cheap, easy to find, useful, and versatile. Care must be exercised so that children do not hurt themselves on sharp metal edges or points of wire. Mechanical can openers make it possible to get many sizes of food cans with open tops free from rough edges. Attractive projects can be made from the following:

Tin cans of all sizes
Screen wire mesh
Chicken wire mesh
Aluminum foil containers
Tin boxes, band aid boxes
Bottle caps
Cookie tins
Air filters
Coat hangers
Nails
Single strand wire, copper, steel, etc.
Auto engine oil filters
Metal caps from preserve and fruit jars

ASHTRAY
or
EARRING TRAY
and
PIN TRAY



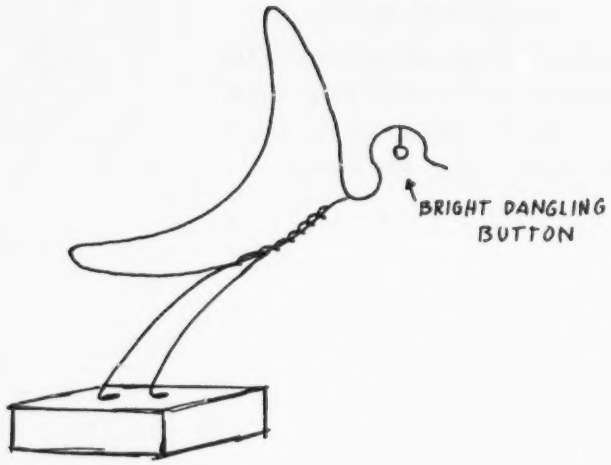
MATERIALS

Tuna can
Plaster of Paris
Jewels
Shells, etc.
Stovepipe wire
Round pencil

PROCEDURE

Cover a tuna can with plaster mixture and press jewels onto sides, as desired. For a cigarette holder, coil a 20″ length of stovepipe wire around a pencil to form a spring. Bend end of wire over rim of tray, stretch spring across top, and bend other end over opposite side. By leaving off the wire coil, you may line can with scrap of velvet for a pin or earring tray.

Wire Sculpture



MATERIALS

Black Wire
Block of wood
Tacks

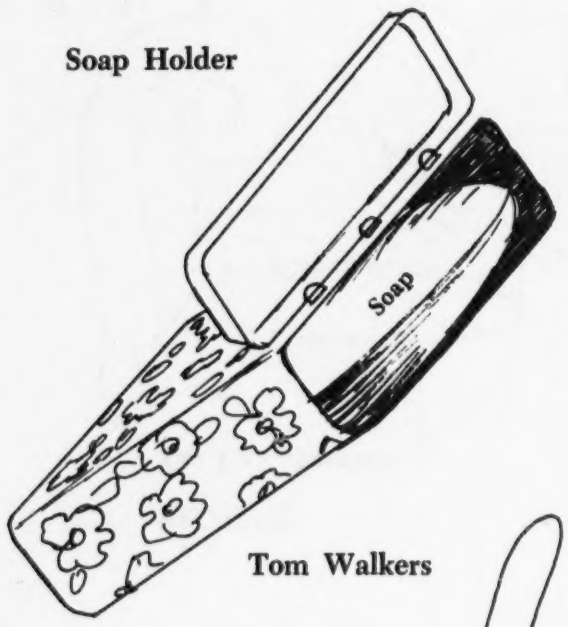
TOOLS

Pliers

PROCEDURE

Sketch your design to desired size on paper. Use fingers and pliers to bend wire evenly. Coat hangers, if not too stiff, are suitable. Tack to block of wood and complete shaping.

Soap Holder



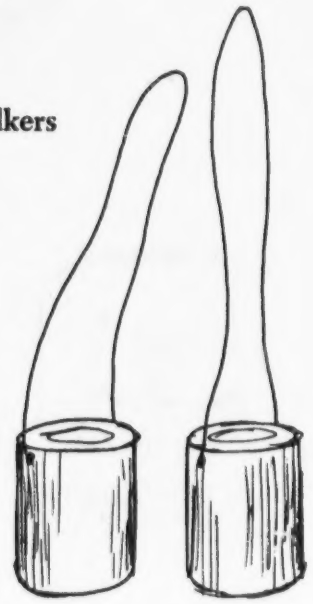
MATERIALS

Band Aid box
Magic marker
Paint

PROCEDURE

A band aid tin with a hinged lid makes a good moisture-proof soap box for picnics, camping, or traveling. After the box has been painted and has dried, decorate the outside with a magic marker or adhesive-backed paper.

Tom Walkers



MATERIALS

2 tin cans (4″ in diameter)
Stout cord or string

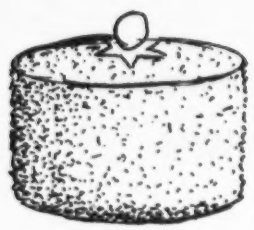
TOOLS

Screw driver or ice pick

PROCEDURE

Select two 4″ diameter cans. Punch two holes in each can and run string through these holes. Adjust strings long enough so that student can stand on cans and hold ends of strings at the same time. Tie ends of strings together. Students will enjoy walking on Tom Walkers.

Trinket Box



MATERIALS

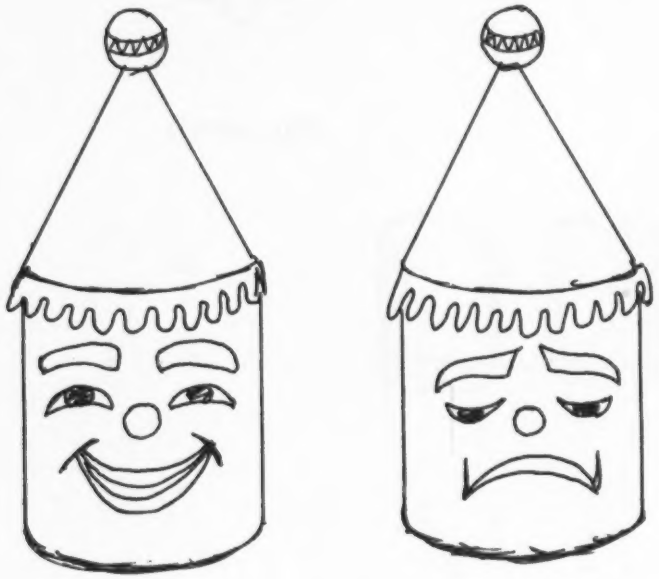
Peanut or any small tin can
Glue and sand
Gold, silver or other color paint

PROCEDURE

Use glue to make design on can. Roll in sand. When dry, spray with paint.

PROJECT

Clown Container



MATERIALS

Coffee can

Paste
Construction paper

PROCEDURE

Use the new type coffee cans with the plastic lids. Paint them white and glue an inverted funnel to the lid. Top the funnel with a gaily colored ball and glue into place. Paint a clown face on the side of each can; perhaps one clown could be smiling and the other sad. Use the cans as containers for crayons, pencils and other hard-to-keep-track-of items.

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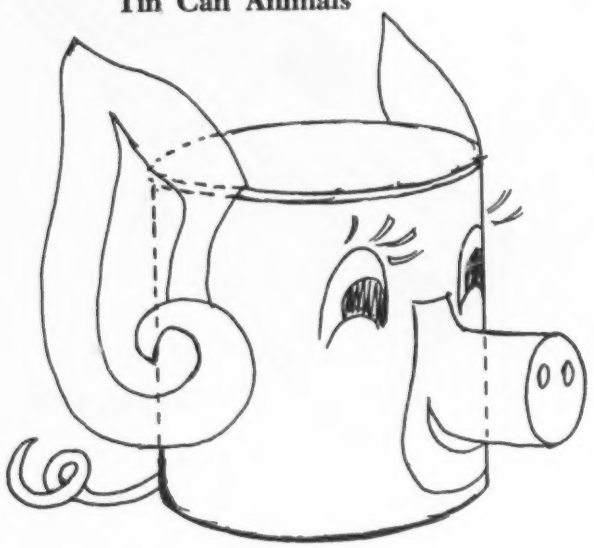
PROJECT

Tin Can Animals



MATERIALS

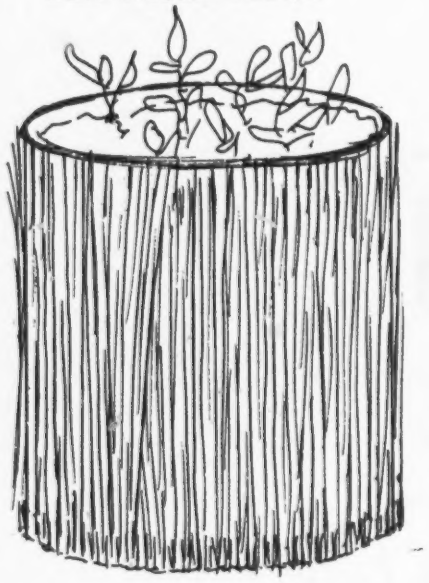
Coffee can with plastic lid
Glue
Gaily colored ball
Magic marker
Paint
Funnel

PROCEDURE

Cover the can with construction paper. Paste on construction paper eyes, ears, tail, beak, and other features. These animals make attractive pencil holders.

PROJECT

Pine Needle Planter



MATERIALS

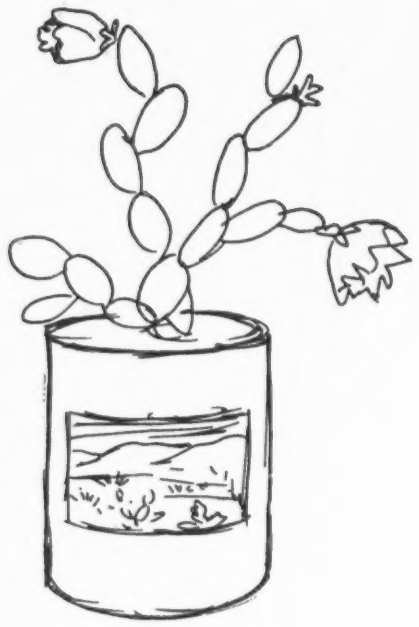
Dry pine needles
14 oz. pipe tobacco can
Glue
Clear shellac

PROCEDURE

Coat the can with glue and place the needle heads up around the can, as close together as possible. When dry, cover with clear shellac. (Trim top and bottom ends of needles.)

PROJECT

Plant Container



MATERIALS

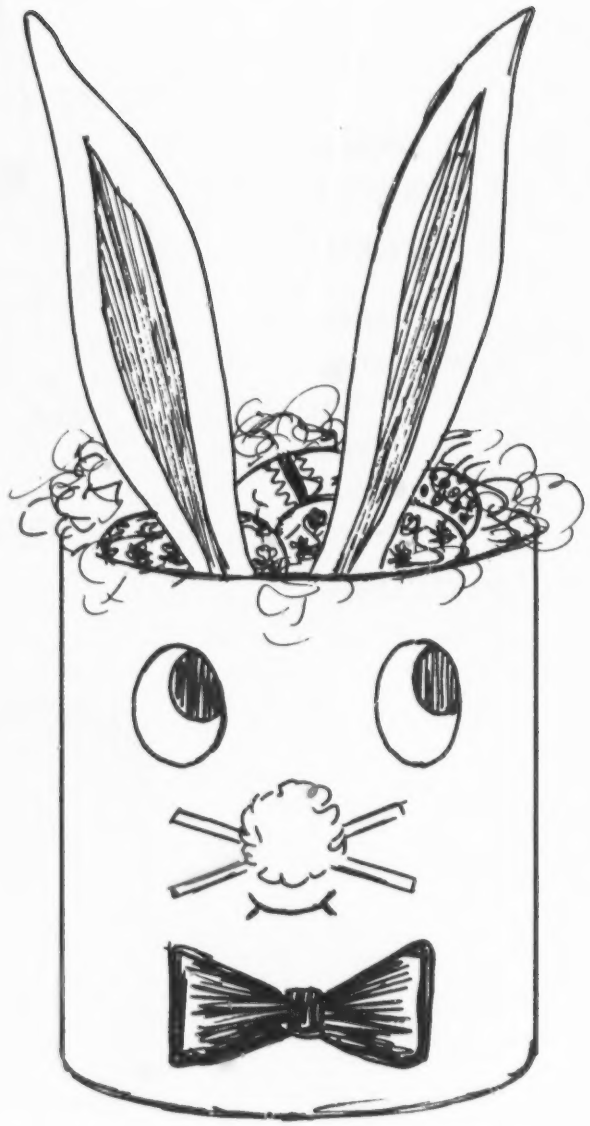
Tin can
Paint
Glue
Shellac
White sand
Plant

TOOLS

Paint brush
Scissors

PROCEDURE

Select cans that have been opened with a mechanical can opener and have no sharp edges. Remove labels and wash can. Paint inside and outside. When paint is dry, glue on an attractive cut-out picture from a magazine. Shellac over the cut-out picture, being careful it is smooth. Fill the can with white sand and plant a small evergreen in the container.



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PROJECT

Rabbit Face Container

MATERIALS

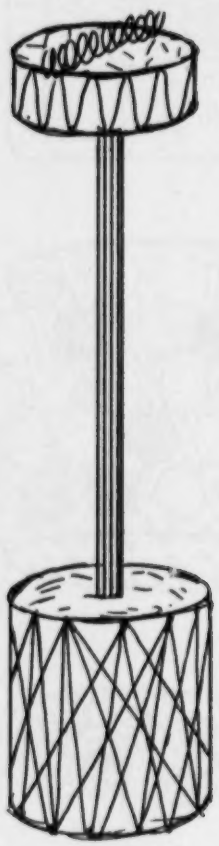
Construction paper
Tin can
Colored plastic grass
Easter eggs
Tape
Cotton

PROCEDURE

Tape white or grey construction paper around can. Cut 2 round discs about the size of a silver dollar for eyes. Then cut 2 round black discs about the size of a dime for center of eyes. Glue to can. Cut 2 strips of colored construction paper about 8 inches long and ¼ inch wide for whiskers. Glue these to a small ball of cotton, then glue this to the center of the can. Cut a small bow tie of black construction paper and glue to the bottom of the can. Cut two ears of grey or white construction paper and 2 smaller ears of pink and glue these together to form the inside of the ear. Glue ears to inside of can. Fill can with colored straw. Put colored eggs on top of straw.

PROJECT

Ash Tray



MATERIALS

One large fruit juice can
A dowel (at least ¾") or a broomstick
A large flat can
Screws
Plaster of Paris
Stovepipe wire

PROCEDURE

Paint the can with desired color and cut dowel to about 24" long. Drill a hole in center of flat can and in center of dowel end. Attach the two together with a screw.

Place the other end of the dowel in center of fruit juice can and fill with plaster of Paris. When plaster is thoroughly dry, paint to match base.

Decorate the outside of the ash tray and the base by winding on plastic lacing or gluing on a string design.

With triple thickness of aluminum foil, form a removable liner for the ash tray. For a cigarette rest, coil a length of stovepipe wire around a pencil. Remove and slip coil ends over the rim of the ash tray.

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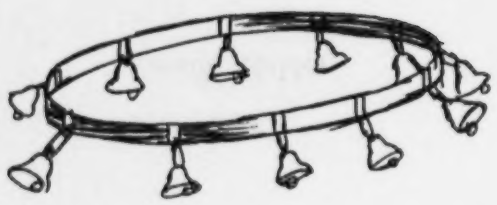
PROJECT

Tambourine



MATERIALS

Embroidery hoop
Unbleached muslin
Six or seven sleigh bells
Safety pins

PROCEDURE

Cover embroidery hoop with muslin. Fasten bells to edge of material with safety pins.

PROJECT

Candle Holder

MATERIALS

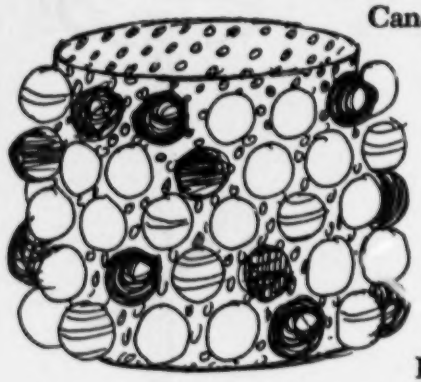
Corrugated paper
Small cones
Wood roses
Sweet gum balls
Nuts
Small, deep bottle caps or tops
Gold or silver spray paint

PROCEDURE

Cut a six inch circle of the corrugated paper. Glue the bottle top in the center to hold the candle. Then glue the cones, wood roses, sweet gum balls and nuts around the top. Spray with gold or silver paint.

PROJECT

Christmas Decoration Candle Holder



MATERIALS

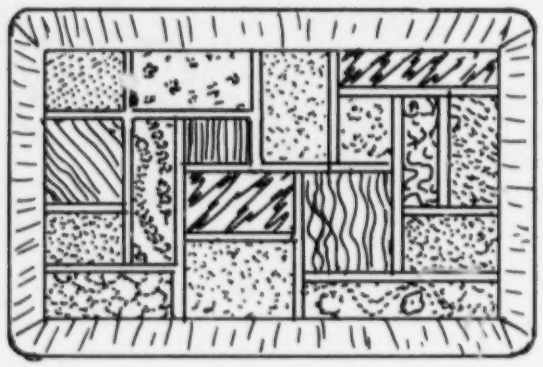
Metal top from an old furnace filter
Fine wire
Small Christmas tree balls

PROCEDURE

Make a cylinder of the filter, wiring the ends together. Hang a ball in each opening.

PROJECT

Tray



MATERIALS

Cookie tin
Glue
Small squares of formica
grout

PROCEDURE

Paint a shallow-rimmed cookie tin in color of your choice. Glue squares of formica to inside of the tray to make a colorful patchwork design. Add grout between squares, if desired.

PROJECT

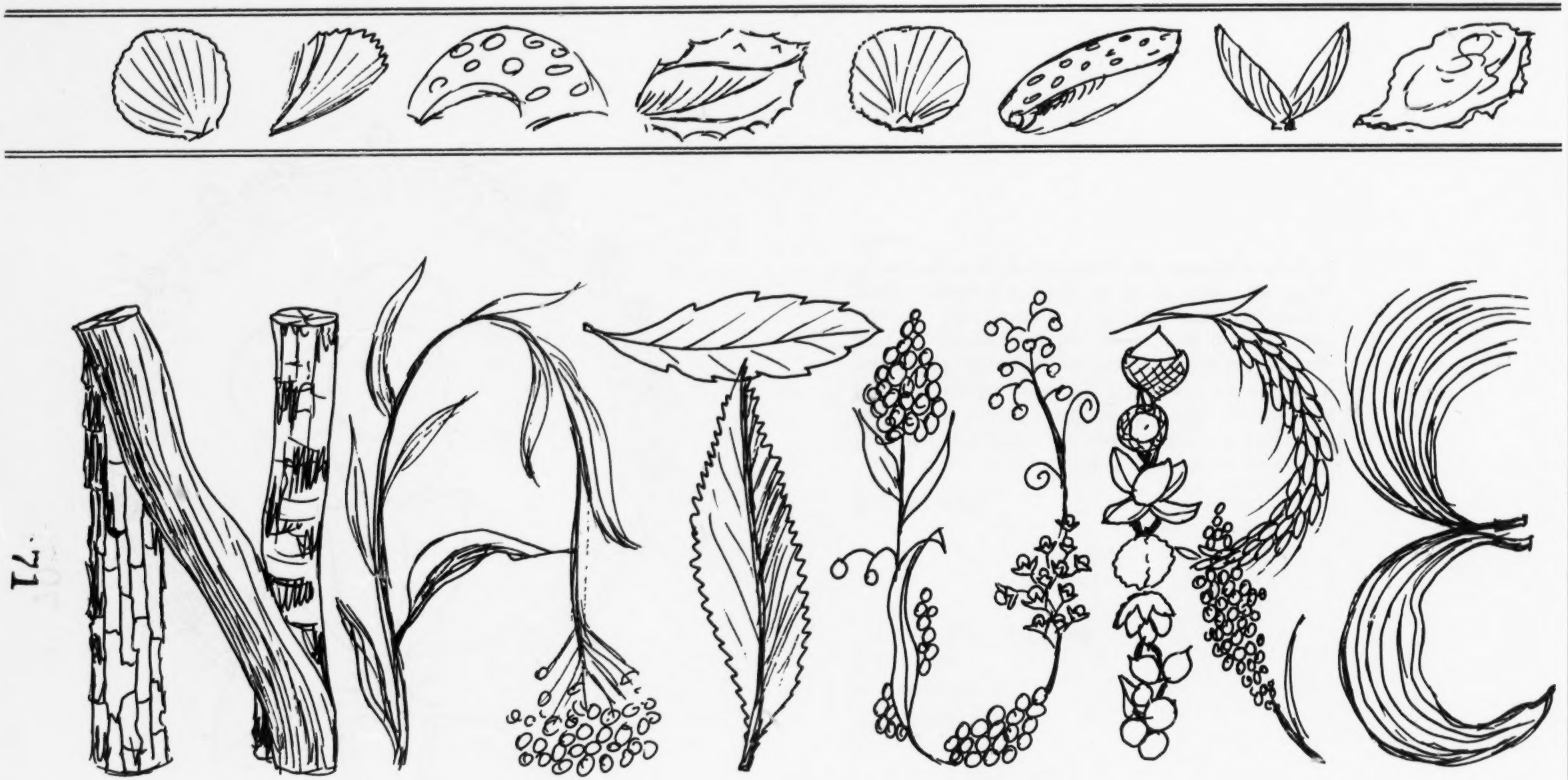
Christmas Tambourine Door Trim

MATERIALS

Two foil popcorn pans
Yarn
Waterproof ribbon
Large needle
Jingle bells
Christmas balls and beads

PROCEDURE

Use 2 foil pans in which popcorn is packaged. Place the pans rim to rim with handles matching. Sew rims of pans together with colorful yarn, threading on bells at regular intervals. Wrap pan handles with waterproof ribbon and use end of handle for hanging. Add a waterproof ribbon bow. Trim front of tambourine with Christmas balls and beads using waterproof cement, glue 4 balls in center topped by a fifth. Around these, glue beads in spiral, covering remainder of pan.



NATURE

Nature provides materials for many creations. Construction of animals, sculpture, and abstract designs are only a few things that can be done with nature materials.

Use dried grasses, seeds, grains, berries, corn husks, bark, and other products of forest and field. Children can paste abstract designs or actual scenes on plywood, tiles, pie tins or cardboard.

Pupils may create designs which incorporate space and form as well as height and width.

Encourage pupils to explore their environment. There is no end of fascination with nature materials in art.

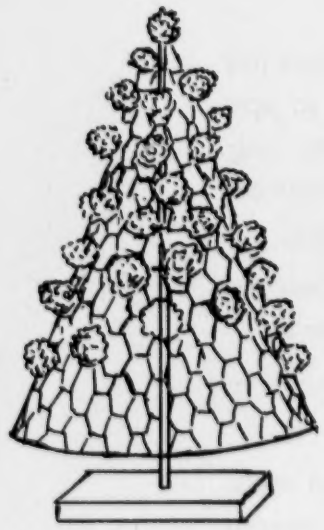
Pasting down leaves, bark, etc., to a surface or weaving pine needles offer stimulation and interest to retarded students when the more familiar drawing and painting activities have become over-emphasized.

In nature materials the variations of color, tone, and texture range from smooth fluffy cotton to coarse sand.

Field trips offer excellent opportunities for nature study. The retarded child gains much by observing the different leaves on the trees and other wonders of nature.

Take the class for a walk in the early fall to look for pretty leaves, grasses, ferns, etc. After returning to school, have the children place these things in a magazine to be pressed for a week. Buy clear contact paper and figured contact paper. Arrange a few of the items on the sticky side of the figured contact paper and place the clear contact paper on top of this. Hang the fall collection on the walls of the room or use the large ones as place mats.

Pine Cone Christmas Tree



MATERIALS

Pine cones
Wooden dowels 18″ high
Wooden blocks
6½″ x 3¼″ x 3¾″
Chicken wire
Paint
Glitter

PROCEDURE

Paint a supply of pine cones in a variety of colors and sprinkle with glitter.

Insert wooden dowels in wooden blocks. Using chicken wire, make a cone with a radius of 20″, and hang over the dowel. Paint the wooden base and the wire gold. Push the pine cones into the wire at appropriate intervals for an unusual and decorative Christmas tree.

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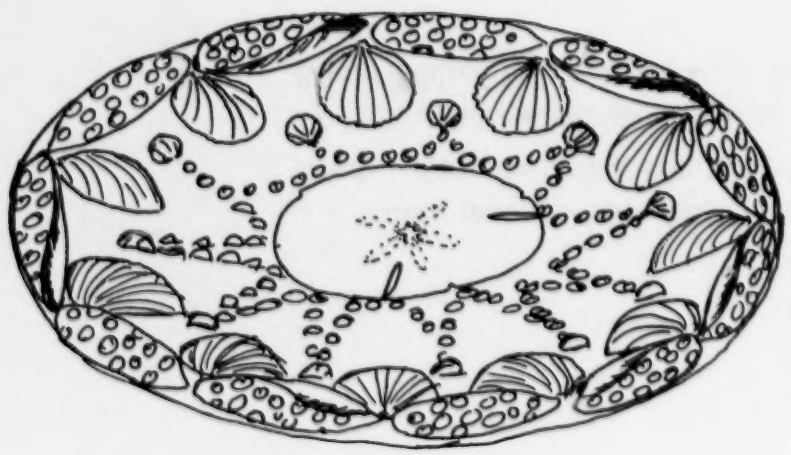
Pin Dish



MATERIALS

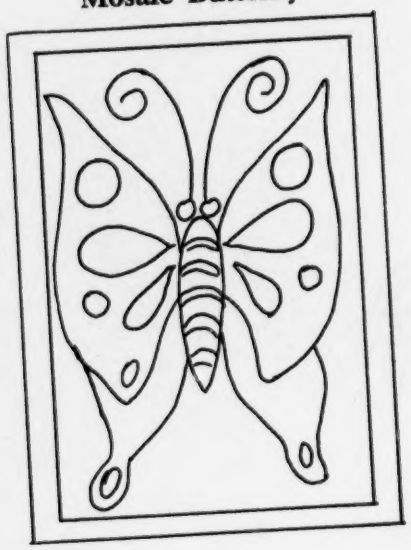
5″ aluminum dish
A few seashells
Plaster of Paris
Tempera

PROCEDURE

Measure enough plaster of Paris to fill the dish ¾ full and dump into a bowl. Then add water and mix thoroughly. *Do not make mixture too sloppy.* Add a little tempera and stir. Pour into the dish. Shape the plaster around the sides with shallow indentation in the center. Place the seashells in a pleasing design. Set on a level area overnight. Remove the dish from the plaster by pulling the edge until it breaks away. Allow another day for drying.

PROJECT

Mosaic Butterfly



MATERIALS

Cardboard shoe box top
Glue (Elmer's)
Rice
Spaghetti
Macaroni in fancy shapes
Food coloring
Water
Paper towels

PROCEDURE

Draw outline of butterfly on a cardboard shoe box top. Break spaghetti into pieces about ¾" long. Drop rice, spaghetti, and macaroni into pans of water which have different food colors added. Leave only long enough to tint. Remove and dry on paper towels. Spread glue over butterfly design. Arrange rice, spaghetti, and macaroni into desired designs.

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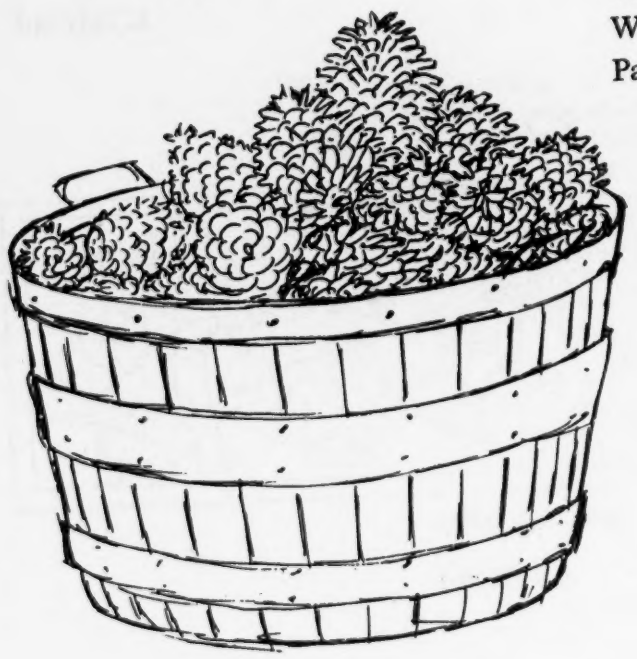
Pine Cone Gifts



MATERIALS

Pine Cones
Various solutions
Water
Pan

PROCEDURE

Pine cones that have been soaked in various solutions will burn in bright colors in the fireplace. A common table salt solution (½ pound salt to ½ gallon water) will produce a yellow flame. A borax solution (1 quart of water to ¼ pound of borax) will burn with a bright green flame. Cones should be soaked for three or four days. Other solutions include strontium nitrate (red), lithium chloride (purple), and copper sulphate (blue).

PROJECT

Shell Pictures

* For young children, designs or picture outlines can be traced on the paper.

MATERIALS

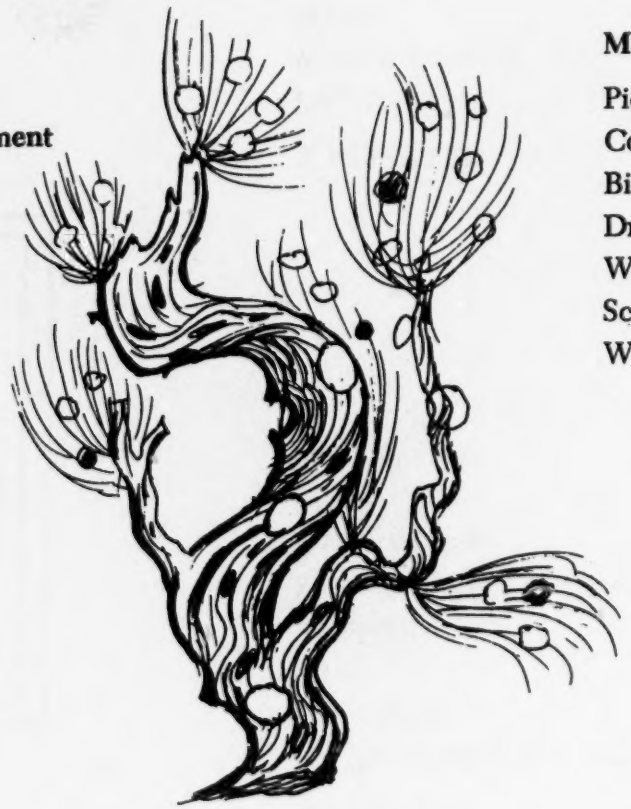
Beach shells
Cardboard
White glue
Colored pencils
Pebbles (or sequins or tiny beads)
String
Tape

PROCEDURE

Cut poster-weight cardboard to desired size for a picture. Arrange shells in design on cardboard. Then glue one shell at a time into position. With a brush, apply glue to the edge of the open side of shells.

PROJECT

Driftwood and Shell Collage Wall Ornament



MATERIALS

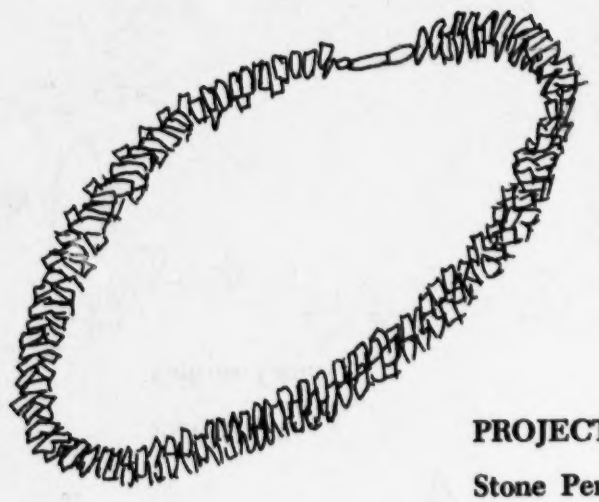
Piece of driftwood
Collection of shells
Bits of seaweed
Dried seed pods, etc.
White glue
Screw eye
Wire

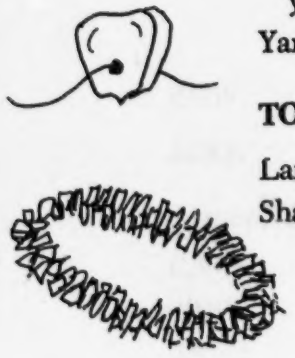
PROCEDURE

Examine the driftwood for design possibilities. Decide which shells, seaweed, and sea pods should go where, and glue them in place. Attach a screw eye to the back and hang ornament up with wire.

PROJECT

Corn Jewelry





MATERIALS

Corn of all colors (red, yellow, white, etc.)
Yarn

TOOLS

Large needle
Sharp pointed tool

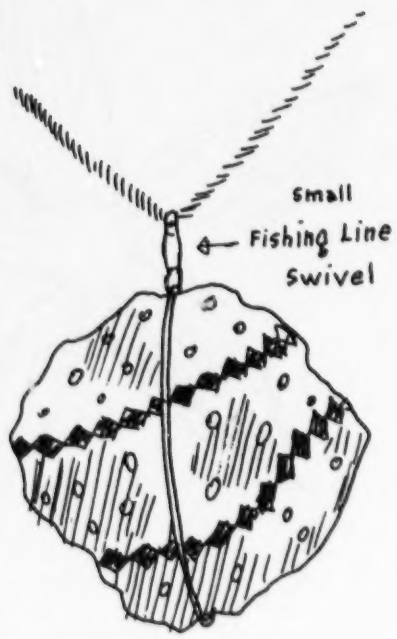
PROCEDURE

Corn may be collected on a field trip to a farm or brought in by pupils.

Shell corn from the cob. Punch holes in the center of the corn grain. Thread needle with yarn and string corn alternating colors. Caution pupils against injuring themselves.

PROJECT

Stone Pendulum



MATERIALS

Stones
Copper wire
Yarn
Paint
Shellac
Rubber cement

TOOLS

Pliers
Paint brush

PROCEDURE

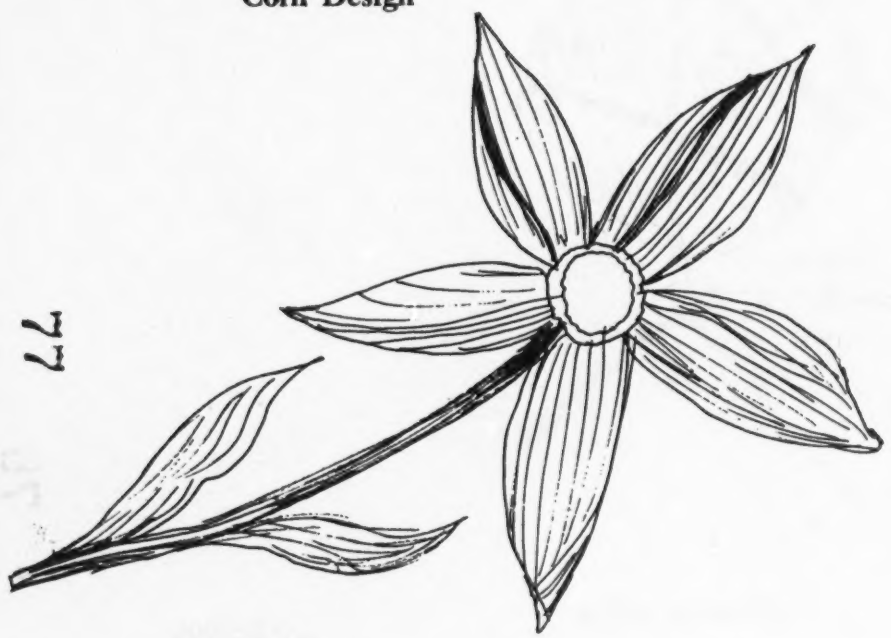
Have pupils collect stones of various shapes and colors from the beach, roadside, yard, etc.

Twist wire tightly around the stone. Apply rubber cement to prevent its slipping out of place. Cut wire, leaving end long enough to bend and make a loop. Draw and paint design on the stone. Apply shellac to give it gloss.

Pendulum may be suspended by braided yarn or chain.

PROJECT

Corn Design



MATERIALS

Corn husks
Corn cob
Glue
Construction paper

TOOL

Knife

PROCEDURE

Draw flower outline on colored construction paper. Use corn husks for flower stem and petals. Glue on thin discs of sliced corn cob for center of flower. Apply glue to the outline, and arrange husks in flower design. Allow to dry under pressure.

PROJECT

Cotton Lamb

MATERIALS

Cotton with or without seed
Twigs
String
Cloth
Cement glue

TOOL

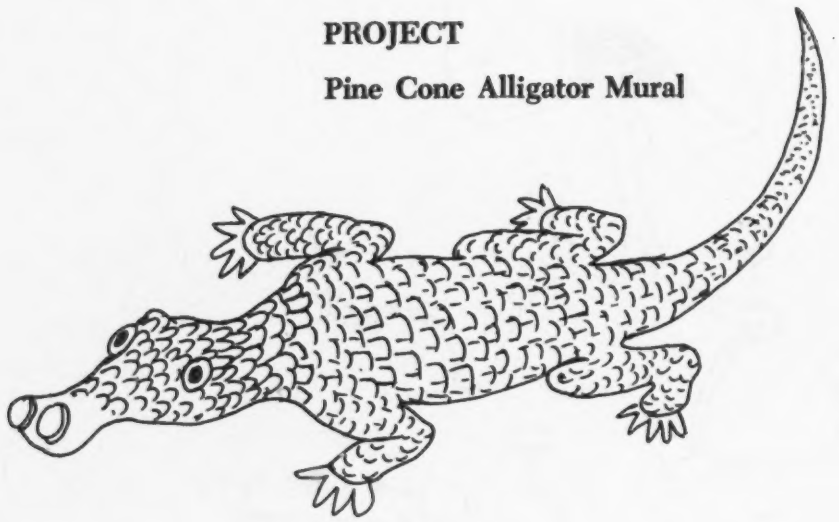
Knife

PROCEDURE

Tie twigs with string to form the body of the animal. Cut four twigs of equal length for legs. Extend twigs to make the head and tail. Cement twig-framed body and cover with cotton. Add as many layers of cotton as needed to make animal fluffy. Make the head by rolling cotton into a ball and place it over the extended twig. Cut cloth ears, cover sparingly with cotton, and eyes.

PROJECT

Pine Cone Alligator Mural



MATERIALS

Pine cones
Cement glue
Felt

TOOLS

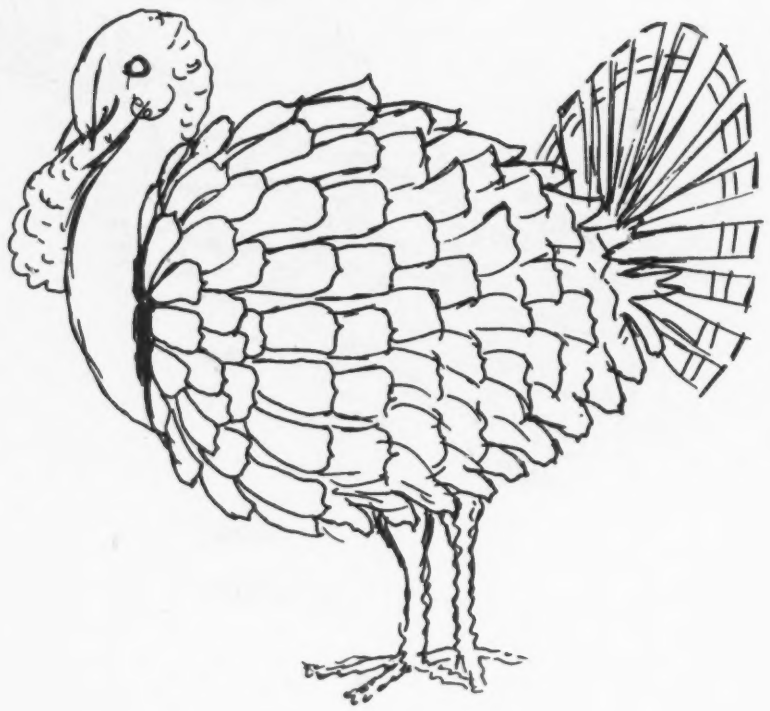
Knife
Scissors

PROCEDURE

Separate scales from the pine cones. Cut blue or green felt desirable size. Draw alligator outline on felt, using a white lead pencil or white chalk. Apply cement glue to the felt and attach the pine cone scales. Use buttons for eyes. Red felt may be used for a tongue.

PROJECT

Pine Cone Turkey



MATERIALS

Pipe cleaners
Construction paper
Glue
Pine cones

TOOLS

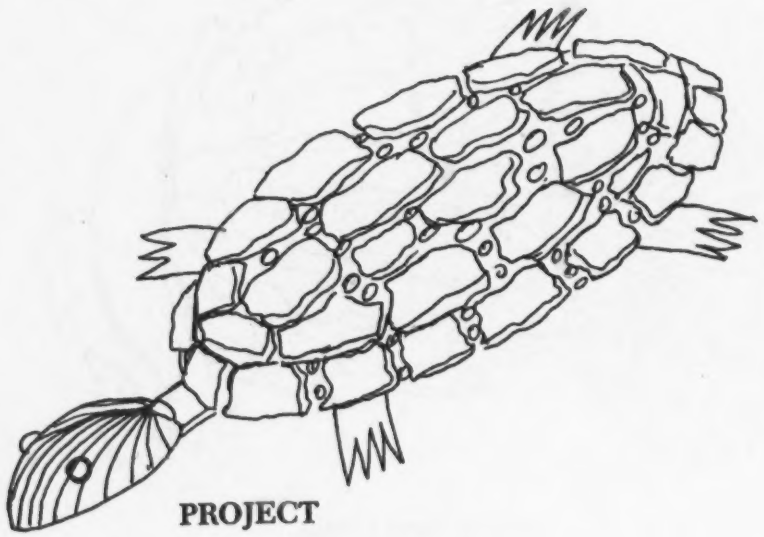
Scissors

PROCEDURE

Collect pine cones of all sizes. Cut out feathers and turkey head from construction paper. Make feet from pipe cleaners. Attach paper feathers in semicircular fashion with glue and place on narrow end of the pine cone for tail. Place paper head on wide end of cone. Shellac if desired.

PROJECT

Turtle



MATERIALS

Tree bark
Paper pie plates
Small seashell
Beans
Glue
Paint
Six wooden forks

TOOLS

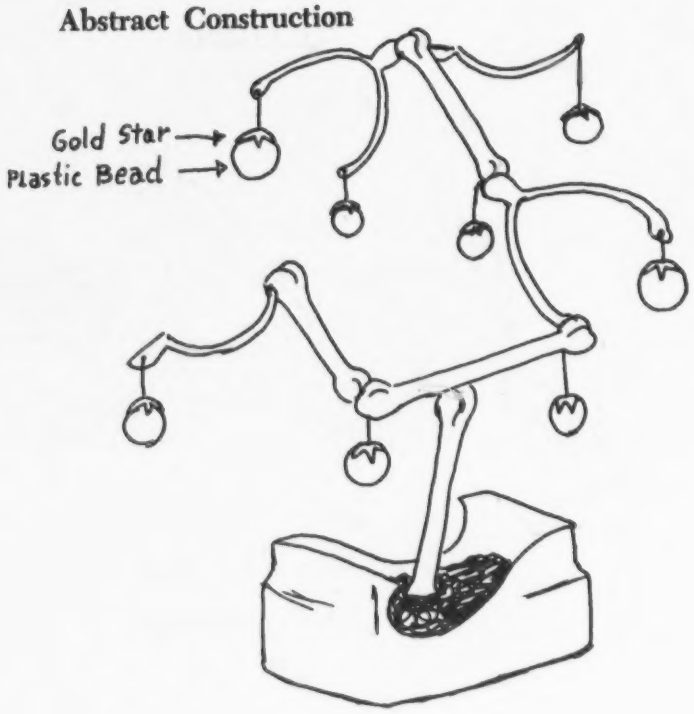
Knife
Paint brush

PROCEDURE

Turn paper pie plate upside down. Cut bark into small pieces. Apply glue to pie plate. Arrange bark and beans over entire surface of pie plate. Glue four wooden forks to pie plate, two on each side, for turtle's feet. Glue shell to one fork, then attach to paper plate for the head. Glue narrow piece of fork at rear for tail. Paint eyes on shell. Spots may also be painted on the turtle.

PROJECT

Abstract Construction



MATERIALS

Chicken bones
Turkey bones
Modeling clay
Clorox
Cement glue

TOOLS

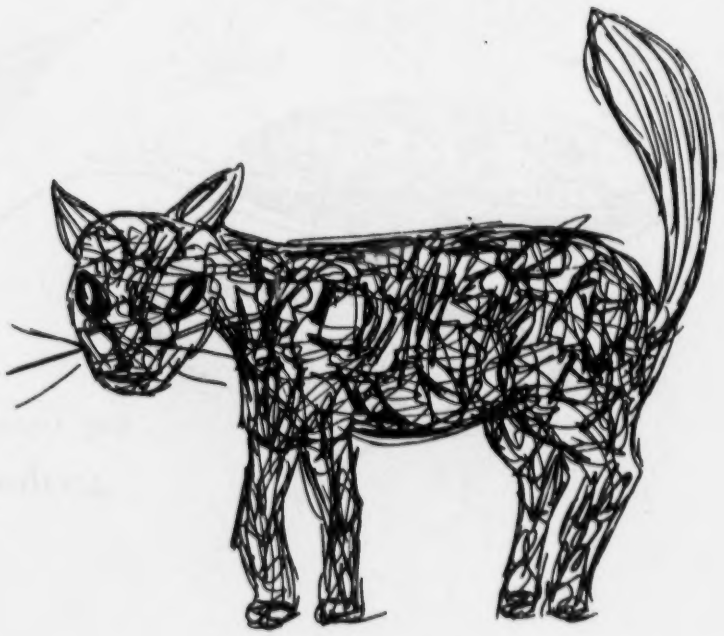
Hot plate
Pan

PROCEDURE

Have pupils collect bones. Boil bones and add clorox to the water to bleach them. Allow water to cool and pour it out, leaving bones to dry for a day or two. Form design, using bones and cement. Let the construction adhere. Mix clay and pour into a tin or plastic container to form base. Place abstract construction into clay base. Leave it alone until completely dry.

PROJECT

Nature Cat



MATERIALS

Twigs
Weed
Seed pods
Bark
Cement
Cellophane

TOOLS

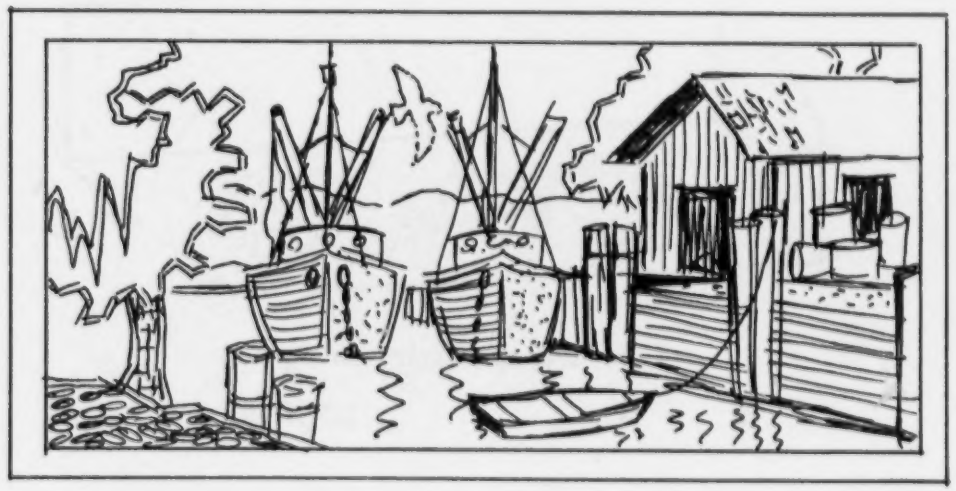
Knife
Scissors

PROCEDURE

Secure twigs, weeds, bark, and pods from school ground, roadside or forest. Arrange twigs and bark for body form. Use cellophane tape to help hold twigs and bark in shape. Cement structure to hold securely. Add weeds and seed pods to give design more body. Attach bark to cellophane for the cat's eyes.

PROJECT

Collage



MATERIALS

Rice
Grits
Elbow macaroni
Corrugated cardboar
Glue
Clear varnish
Tempera

TOOLS

Brush

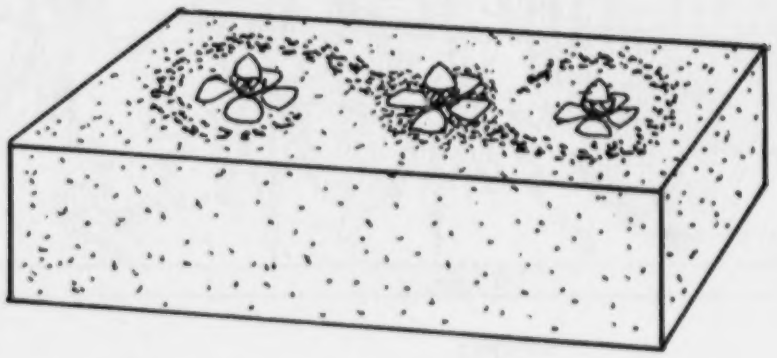
PROCEDURE

Grain and macaroni may be brought by each pupil since only a small amount would be used, varying with the size of the design.

Draw design on a piece of corrugated cardboard. Apply glue, arranging grain to suit individual taste. Macaroni may be used to form tree branches. Paint design with thick tempera. Apply clear varnish if desired. Frame picture and attach fastener for hanging.

PROJECT

Sewing or Knicknack Box



MATERIALS

Cigar box
Fish scales
Sand
Food coloring
Acorn tops
Cement glue
Paint

TOOLS

Paint brush

PROCEDURE

Paint the box or spray with silver or gold enamel. Allow to dry. Color sand various colors with food coloring. Let sand dry. Apply glue or cement to box. Design by sprinkling colored sand and arranging fish scales and acorn tops on cement-covered box.

The girls may use the decorated boxes for jewelry and trinkets. The boys may choose to give boxes to their mothers or friends for gifts.

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PROJECT

Jewelry Box

MATERIALS

Dried gourd
Tempera
Clear varnish
Glue

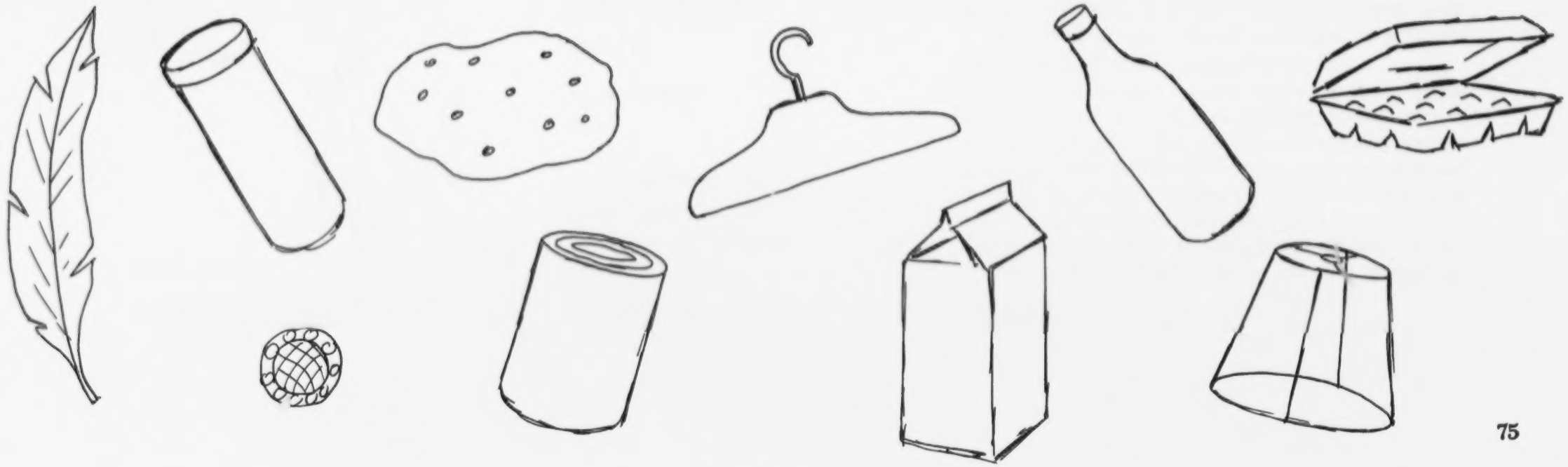
TOOLS

Knife
Paint brush

PROCEDURE

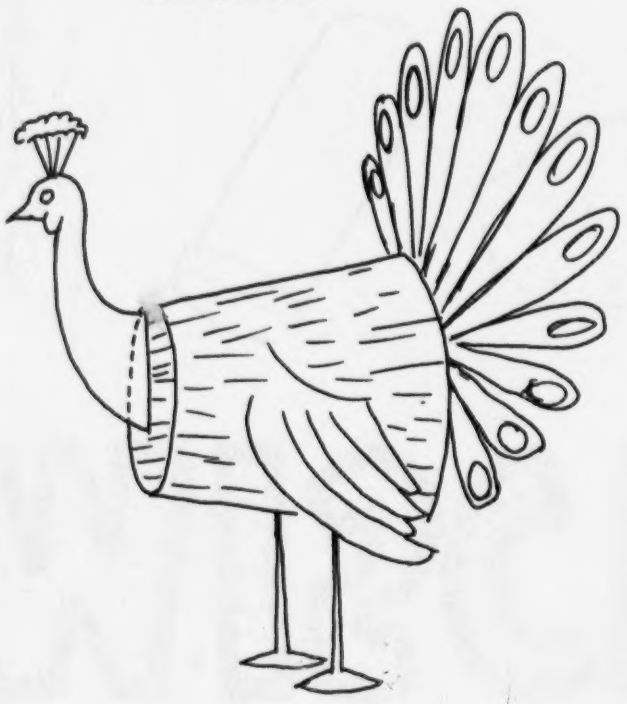
Collect dried gourds. Cut circle out of top, making sure the curved end of the gourd is turned upright. Paint design on gourd and circle. Use circle for top. Glue an acorn on top.

MISCELLANEOUS



PROJECT

Cork Peacock



MATERIALS

One large cork
Discarded hat feathers
Construction paper
Two toothpicks or two long tacks
Glue
Fountain pen

TOOLS

Scissors and knife *

PROCEDURE

Cut slit at the narrow end of the cork so that the paper neck and head of peacock can be inserted into this slit. Draw and cut neck and head out of construction paper, decorating head by drawing in face with fountain pen or gluing on eyes and beak with different color construction paper. Put different colored feathers on wide end of cork by inserting feathers into cork or gluing them on, thus creating a fan-tail effect. Insert two toothpicks or two long tacks as legs.

Farm animals, zoo animals, and other such groups can be made by combining cork, paper, and toothpicks or wires. Corks can be painted or shellacked to give added color.

Eggshell Tulip

MATERIALS

Eggshells
Can
Construction paper
Pipe cleaners (green)
Dirt
Tempera paints
Paste

TOOLS

Sharp-pointed instrument such as point of compass

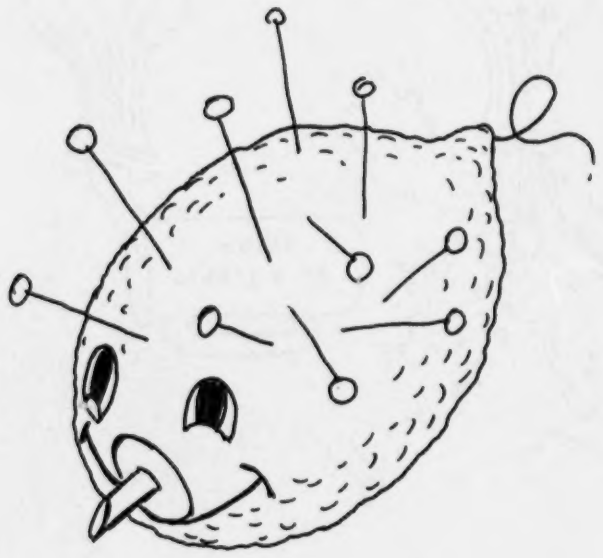
PROCEDURE

Paint eggshells inside and outside. Use shells that are broken smoothly or blown out. Punch hole in bottom of shell and insert pipe cleaner. Cut leaves from construction paper. Cover can with construction paper. Fill with dirt. Arrange tulips and leaves in cans.

* Caution should be exercised in allowing student use of these tools.

PROJECT

Needle Holder



MATERIALS

Empty plastic lime or lemon container
Paint
Piece of string
Needles and pins

PROCEDURE

Paint eyes and mouth, using the lid as a nose. Glue a string on the opposite end for a tail. Stick pins and needles in the back.

A Decorated Vase

MATERIALS

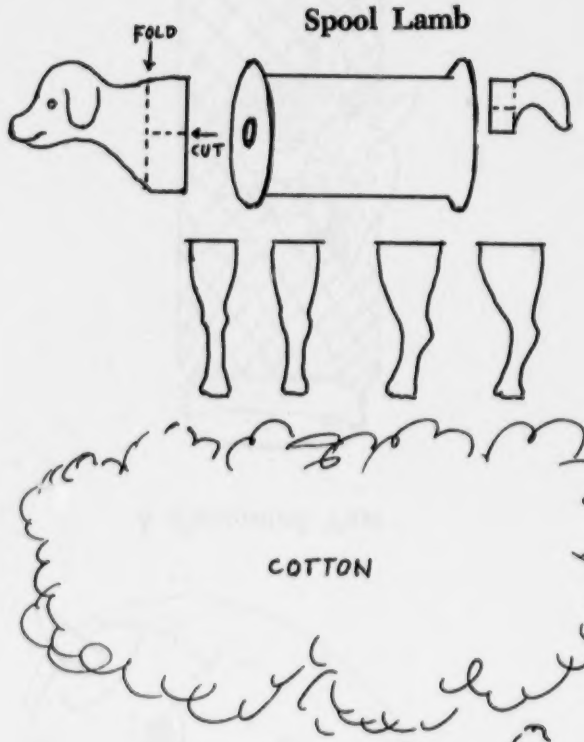
An olive jar or any small jar or plastic pill bottle
Plastic mesh bag
Gold or colored paint
Plastic bottle
Felt-tipped marker

PROCEDURE

Cut a piece of plastic mesh bag to fit around the bottle. Glue it to the bottle lightly at the seam, top, and bottom. Spray the bottle with gold or colored paint. Cut a butterfly from a plastic bottle. Paint body and wings with felt-tipped marker. Bend wings outward. Glue the body of butterfly to the side of the vase.

PROJECT

Spool Lamb



MATERIALS

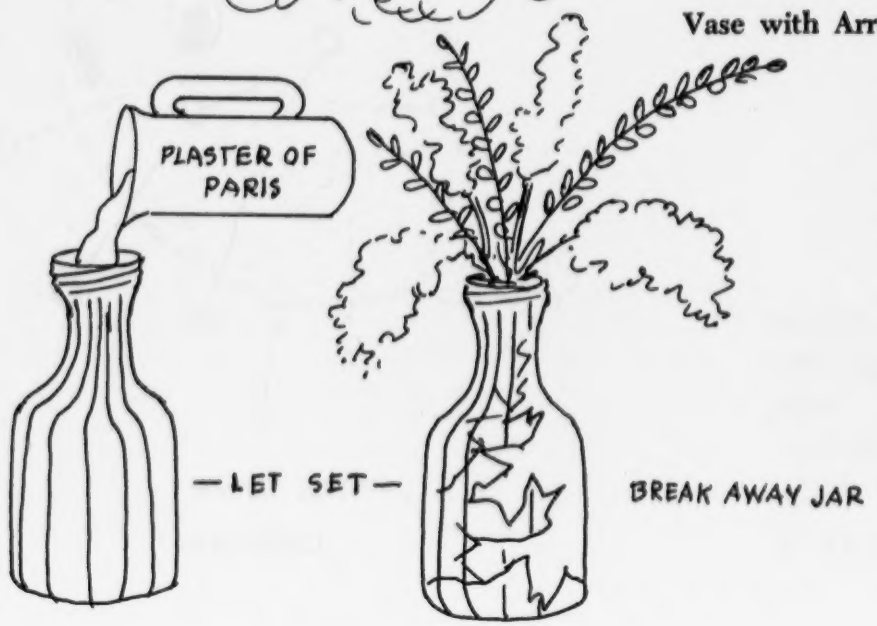
Spool
Cardboard (or tagboard)
Paste
Cotton
Ribbon
Two tiny beads

PROCEDURE

Put a cardboard head and legs on one end of the spool. Put a tail and legs on the other end. Put paste on the spool and cover with cotton. Paste a little cotton on the face and ears. Paste tiny beads on the face for eyes. Tie a ribbon around the neck.

PROJECT

Vase with Arrangement



MATERIALS

Glass bottle
Plaster of Paris
Paint
Hammer
Wheat
Pussy willows
Bulrushes or artificial flowers

PROCEDURE

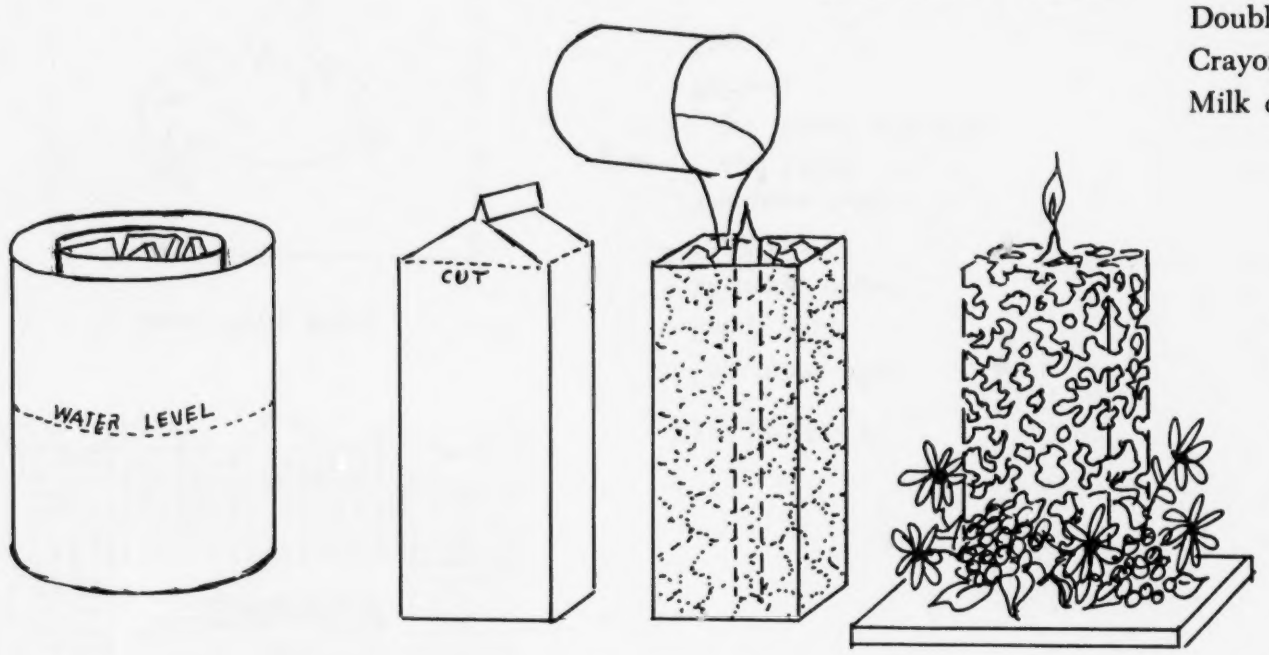
Fill a glass bottle with plaster of Paris. Set several stalks of wheat, pussy willow, or bulrushes into the wet plaster. When the plaster has hardened, tap the bottle with a hammer until it can be broken off from the plaster. Paint the plaster with bright colors or coat it with varnish.

PROJECT

"Swiss Cheese" Candle

MATERIALS

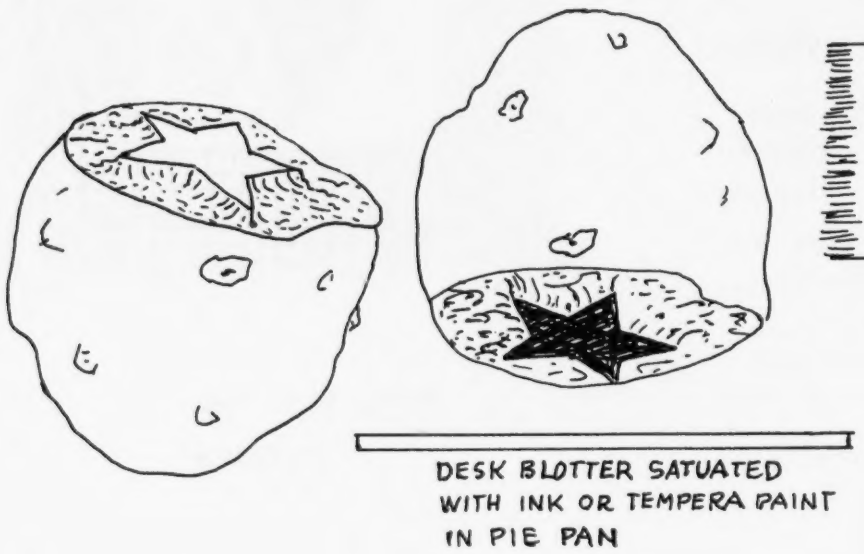
Paraffin
Double boiler
Crayons
Milk carton
Old candle
Plastic flowers or dried weeds
4" x 9" plywood
Ice cubes

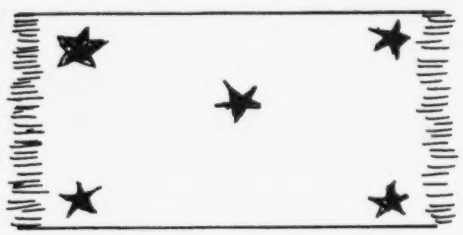


PROCEDURE

Use a 1 lb. package of paraffin. Melt in double boiler made by placing a large size juice can inside a 1 lb. coffee can. When paraffin has melted, add about one inch of a wax crayon to color candle. Use a quart size milk carton for the mold. Cut off top and grease inside. Pour about ½ inch of the paraffin into carton. As it sets, place an old candle in the center.

Break one tray of ice cubes into uneven pieces. Fill carton around candle with the ice. Pour paraffin to top of carton, leaving wick exposed. When hard, tear off the carton over the sink as melted ice will drain from the holes. For the base use a 4" x 9" piece of plywood. Arrange plastic flowers or dried weeds around the base.





PROCEDURE

To make a potato print, slice a potato in half. Select a design and trace or draw onto the potato. Take a knife and cut around design to a depth of ¼". Pare away all parts of the surface that do not have a design on it. Brush ink or tempera paint on design and press onto a sheet of paper.

PROJECT

Potato Printing

MATERIALS

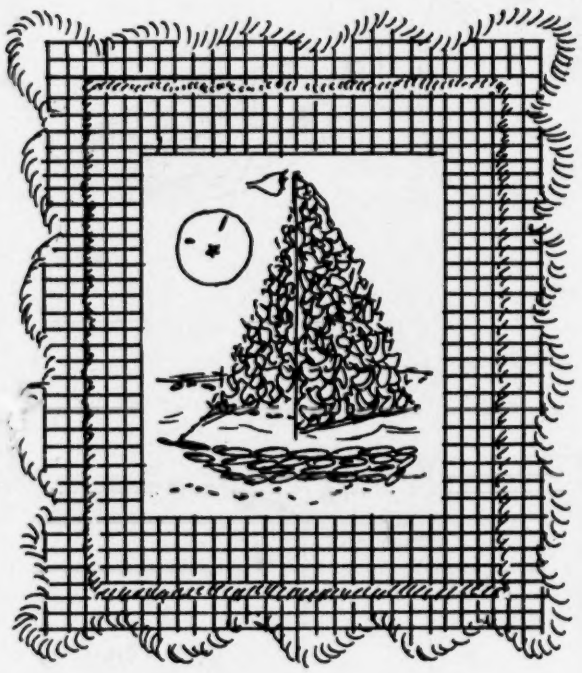
Irish potato
Ink or tempera paint

TOOLS

Knife

PROJECT

Wire Wall Plaque



MATERIALS

One 15″ x 20″ piece of wire screen with ¼″ or ½″ weave
Cotton rope
Thin wire
Stik-tak
Assortment of seashells or plastic flowers

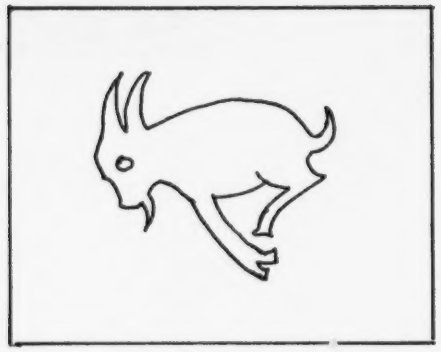
TOOLS

Wire cutters
Scissors

PROCEDURE

Cut wire screen to desired size. Take cotton rope and weave in and out of every other hole in screen around the outer edge, thus giving the appearance of a fishing net. Take a second piece of rope, move in one inch from outside edge and weave around screen. Bend outer edge of screen slightly toward center, thereby giving the appearance of a picture frame. Spray screen and rope with gold paint. Attach seashells, plastic flowers, or other decorative material to screen with stik-tak or wire. Seashells take on a special glow if they are shellacked.

Inner Tube Prints



MATERIALS

Old inner tube
Scrap paper
Drawing paper
Cardboard
Tempera paints and brush (or brayer and ink)
Scissors
Spoon

PROCEDURE

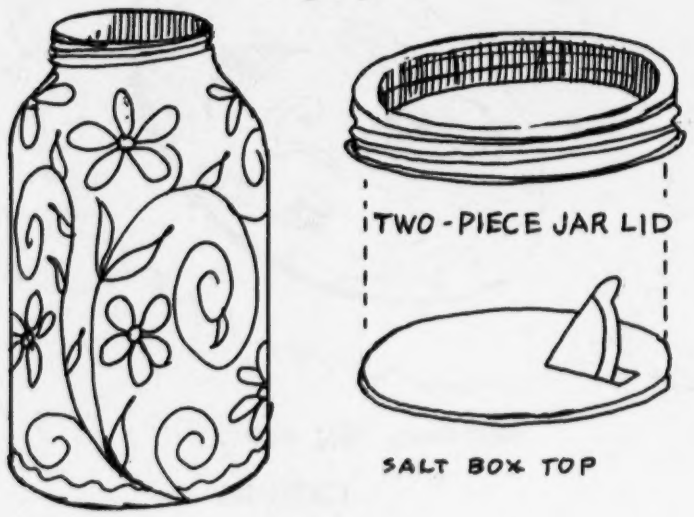
Sketch the silhouette of desired figure or scene on scrap paper, cut out, and use as a pattern to trace the same picture on a piece of inner tube. Cut out rubber silhouette and glue it to a square of stiff cardboard. This is the printing plate.

Brush tempera paint on the rubber figure (or apply tempera or ink with a brayer). While paint is still wet, cover plate with a sheet of drawing paper and rub with a spoon to transfer the picture.

Another way of obtaining the transfer is to lay paper and plate (paper side down) on the floor and step on them. Or if an old washer wringer is available, press prints through it.

PROJECT

Sugar Jar



MATERIALS

Quart or half-gallon fruit jar with lid
Salt box
Decals

TOOLS

Scissors

PROCEDURE

Cut out top of salt box around spout so that this top fits into fruit jar lid. Select decals to paste around jar so as to give the jar a decorative look. This sugar jar makes a good present for Mother for her kitchen table.

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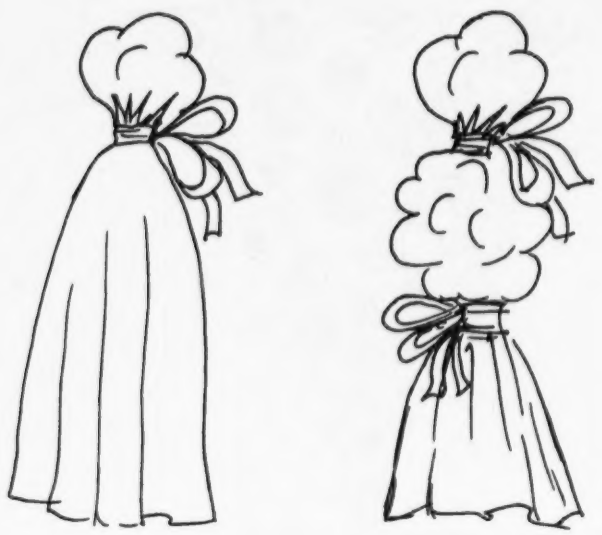
PROJECT

Tied-Dye



MATERIALS

Dye
Hot water
String
Cloth
Marbles
Container for dye

PROCEDURE

Using a piece of cloth such as an old sheet, wrap string tightly around the folds after placing marbles in cloth. Tie in a bow so that it may be removed easily after dyeing. Immerse the tied cloth in the dye. Rinse. Untie. Dry and press. A variety of designs may be made.

PROJECT

Button Christmas Tree

MATERIALS

Various colored buttons
Green construction paper or felt tagboard
Needle
Thread

PROCEDURE

Cut Christmas tree in conventional design using a sheet of 6″ x 9″ green construction paper or felt. Cut a green sheet of 6″ x 9″ tagboard. Sew buttons on Christmas tree, at the same time sewing tree to tagboard. Arrange buttons to look like tree decorations.

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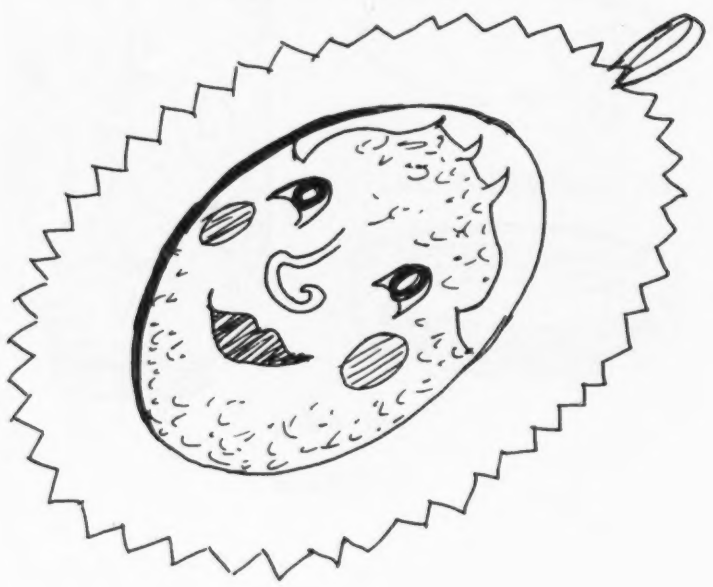
PROJECT

Easter Egg Pincushion



MATERIALS

3½″ styrofoam eggs
Shirt cardboard
Felt
Pins
Scraps of rickrack
Braids
Lace and ribbons
Sequins
Tiny artificial flowers
White glue

PROCEDURE

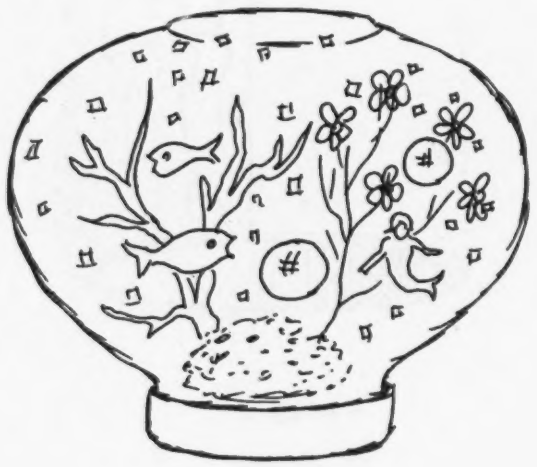
Cut the foam eggs down center lengthwise. Cut cardboard base in an egg shape, about ½″ larger than egg.

Select scrap of felt a little larger than cardboard egg shape. Glue felt to cardboard.

Decorate the convex side of the foam egg. All flat trims should be cut long enough so they may be turned on each end and glued to the flat back of egg. Glue all trims securely to egg front. (To hold them firmly in place while glue dries, anchor with straight pins. Remove pins when glue sets). When glue holding trim is dry, brush glue over back of egg and place it in the center of the felt-covered base. Attach hanging loop of ribbon with glue.

PROJECT

Floral Paperweight



MATERIALS

Jar with screw-on lid
Plastic flowers and greens
Waterproof glue

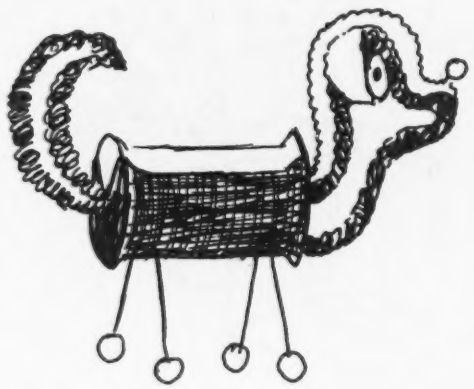
PROCEDURE

Choose a jar with a screw-on lid. Arrange plastic flowers and greens inside, filling the jar. Now fill the jar with plain water or water tinted with a drop of water color.

Paint lid. When it is dry, screw in place after adding waterproof glue around jar rim. Invert jar and use as a paperweight.

PROJECT

Spool Animals



MATERIALS

A variety of spools
Construction paper
Poster paint
Drawing pins
Scrap material (yarn, buttons, crepe paper, etc.)
Pipe cleaners
Glue

PROCEDURE

Study the selection of spools and see what kind of animals their sizes and shapes suggest. Legs can be four drawing pins (or hat pins, if long-legged animals are being constructed). Ears can be made of construction paper, the mane of yarn scraps. A scrap piece of dowel will make a neck for a giraffe. When put together, paint the animals appropriately.

PROJECT

Fluffy Wastebasket

MATERIALS

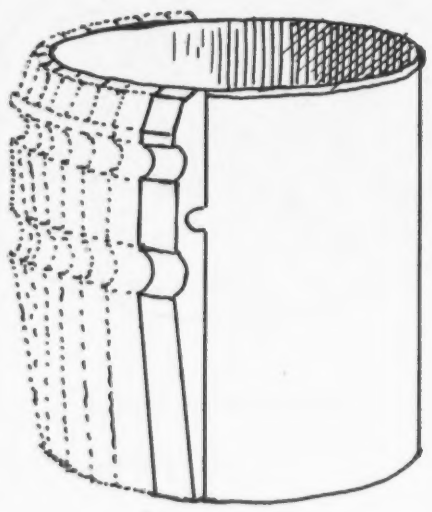
Wire frame of an old lamp shade
Clear plastic bags
Gold spray

PROCEDURE

Cut the bags into pieces about 2″ x 7″. Tie the plastic strips in rows around the wire frame, up and down each spoke, and around the circular frame. The ends of the plastic ties fluff out to conceal the space between the spokes. Spray with either gold or a color. Put a paper bag inside the frame to hold trash.

PROJECT

A Planter



MATERIALS

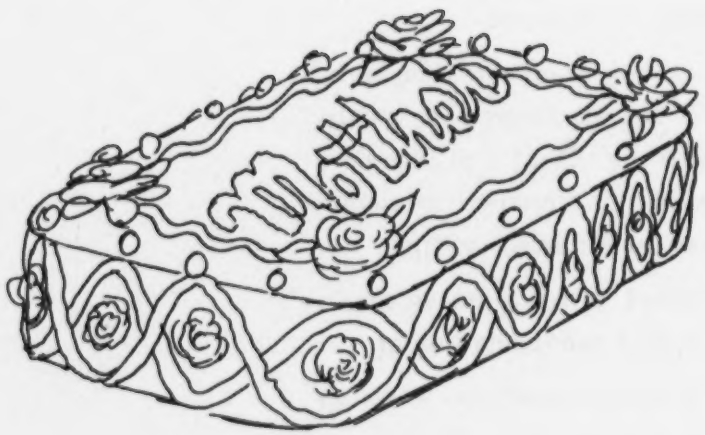
Small spring type clothespins
Buffet size vegetable or fruit tin cans
Elmer's glue
Copper colored wire
Clear varnish

PROCEDURE

Separate clothespins. Put glue on top and bottom edge of flat side of clothespin and glue to can. Keep can upright as you work on flat surface. Allow the clothespins to dry in place and wrap copper wire in the second indentation, twist to secure and cut off. Repeat for third indentation. Apply two coats of varnish.

PROJECT

Decorated Soap



MATERIALS

Cake of soap
Soap flakes
Water
Mixer
Cake coloring

PROCEDURE

A good gift for Mother is a prettily decorated cake of soap.

Take two cups of soap flakes and add enough water to make very stiff suds when beaten with a mixer. Divide suds into various bowls and add drops of cake coloring to make a pastel color. A drop or two of perfume could be added if desired. Using a cake decorator bag with various tips, decorate the bars of soap.

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MOSAICS

Mosaics are made from many materials found around the house or by taking a walk through the forest or field, or a trip to the seashore.

Materials such as colored paper, eggshells, wood chips, sawdust, buttons, macaroni, pebbles, corn kernels, seeds, sea shells, or breakfast cereals have been successfully used in making mosaics.

In designing a mosaic, a simple pattern with two dimensional aspects can be used. Color and texture will be created by the materials chosen as tesserae.

Children delight in creating interpretations of animal forms with the mosaic technique.

COLLAGE

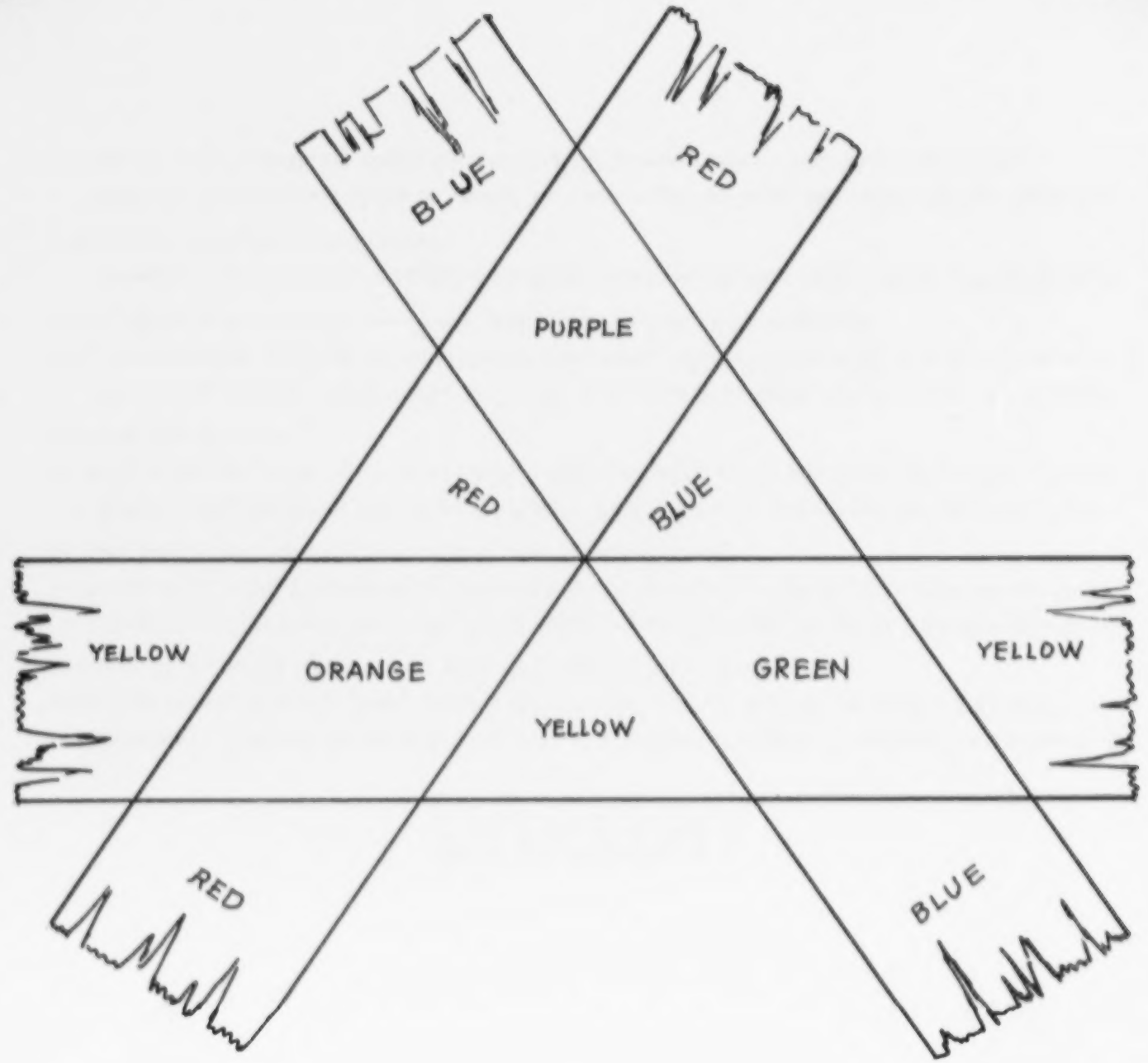
Collage is an effective way to teach the basic concept that art may be found in the ordinary things of our environment if only we take the time and initiative to discover it.

In the classroom pupils can be initiated into the world of collage with such simple materials as paper, paste, paint, string, cloth, and cardboard.

Collage (meaning to paste or stick) may be considered as a texture picture—assembling numerous materials to symbolize an idea or subject. For example, a child may wish to make a collage of a forest. He may use spaghetti as trees, burlap for leaves, torn bits of paper for a stream, and string for the grass. When these materials are uniquely arranged with a dab of paint here and there, the result is a collage symbolizing a forest.

Collage pictures are fun to do and provide an opportunity for artistic expression and creative thinking.

PAINTING


BLUE
RED
PURPLE
RED
BLUE
YELLOW
ORANGE
YELLOW
GREEN
YELLOW
RED
BLUE

PAINTING

Painting is perhaps the most basic of all art activities. Children can express their ideas with paint and brush. Mentally handicapped children get a great deal of personal satisfaction from painting. It is fun for them to see what they can do with a brush.

Many discoveries will be made as the child manipulates the brush in different directions. He wants to see what happens when he moves the brush lightly, with pressure, quickly or slowly. Besides having fun, he will grow in skill and manual dexterity.

Before using the brush, the beginner should learn to transfer color from one place to another by using a sponge, stick, or piece of cloth. Finger painting, string painting, and cardboard brush painting should follow.

The young primary child works well with a large stiff or blunt bristle brush. As his muscular co-ordination develops, he finds that he can express himself better with a large, soft, flexible brush. More mature pupils may work well with brushes of varying sizes.

Grasping a paint brush, manipulating finger paint, or coloring with crayons will aid greatly in muscular eye-hand co-ordination.

Mentally handicapped children should be encouraged to learn the colors before they start to draw or paint something. Begin by teaching the primary colors: red, blue and yellow.

MIXING PRIMARY COLORS TO MAKE NEW COLORS

Providing an opportunity for experimenting with colors will aid in teaching new colors. Pupils will discover that green can be made from mixing yellow and blue; orange can be made from mixing yellow and red; purple can made by mixing red and blue. Varying shades will be discovered through color experiments.

Children with retarded mental development may be made aware of the fact that colors are all around us. Ask such questions as: How many colors can be seen from where you are now? What colors can you see while taking a walk around the school ground or on a field trip?

Both adults and children react to colors. There are dark colors, light colors, bright colors, and rainbow colors. Most children, including the mentally retarded, gain their first concept of "pretty or beautiful" while playing with colors.

FINGER PAINTING

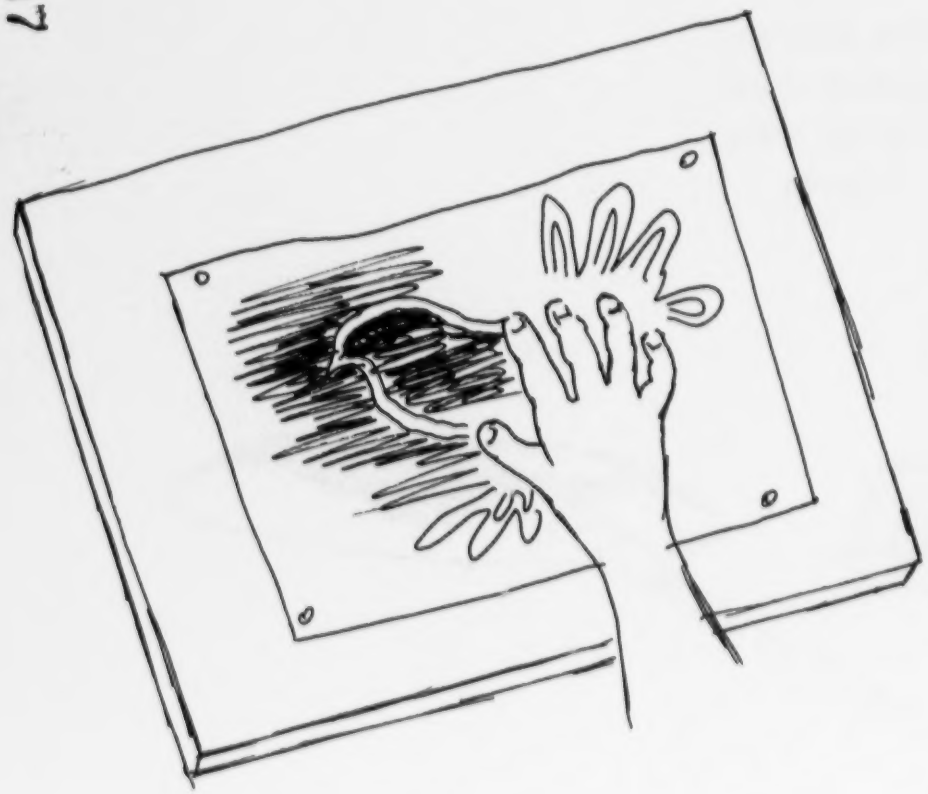
Brown or white wrapping paper, a pan of water, and finger paint may be used for finger painting.

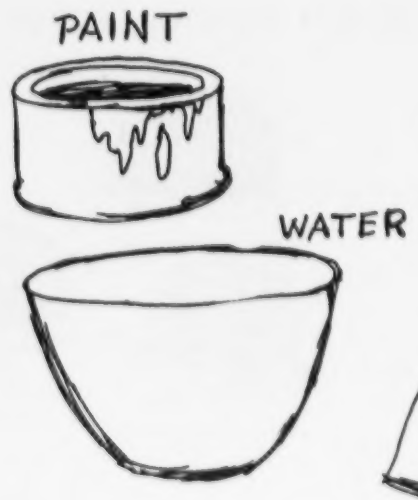
Newspapers, plastic, or oil-cloth may be spread on the tables and around the chairs where the children are working. Aprons should be worn to protect the children's clothing. The aprons may be made from old garments or plastic.

To do finger painting, let the children wet the entire surface of the paper. Then use about a teaspoonful of paint and spread with hands, making strokes across and downward on the paper. Smooth paint out and draw any picture.

This activity provides an excellent opportunity for individual expression.

Dry drawings by placing them on newspaper.





WATERCOLOR PAINTING

A brush, a little container of water, some pans of different-colored tempera and drawing paper or wrapping paper are needed in preparation for watercolor painting.

The teacher may motivate her pupils by instructing them to perform the following activity or a similar one.

1. Dip the brush into the container of water, then into the blue paint. Brush across the top of the paper.
2. Clean the brush, wet it again, and dip it into the yellow paint. Paint lines across the center of the paper.
3. Repeat cleaning and wetting the brush. Dip the brush into the red paint. Mark lines across the bottom of the paper.
4. Allow for verbal expression. The teacher may ask, What does it look like? Such answers as the sky, the sun shining, water, and numerous other explanations will be given.
5. Encourage the children to complete their pictures.

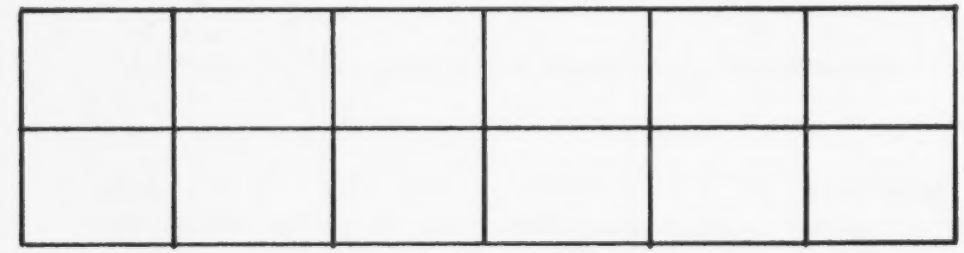
Many features may be added; more lines, splotches of paint, colors running together, trees, houses, flowers, birds, boats. Each picture will show creativity and expression.

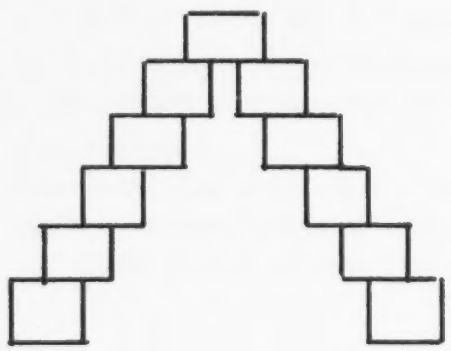
BLOCKS

Manipulating blocks, pegs, puzzles, etc., not only develops finger dexterity and eye-hand co-ordination, but also provides the opportunity for exercising imagination and creativity.

When a child is playing with blocks, he will discover that many structural designs may be erected. He may build a wall or a house or pile the blocks uniquely to meet his satisfaction.

Sometimes the mentally retarded child builds a design or stacks blocks high and decides to blow them down. Do not show disapproval if he does so. Blowing is good breath-control exercise.



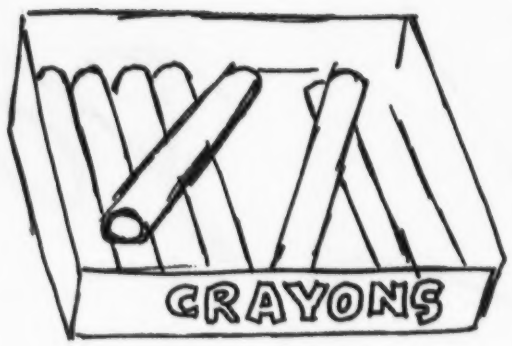


CRAYONING

A child may wish to experiment with crayons, drawing marks on paper, learning to color on paper, and seeing what his marks of different color will resemble.

The mentally retarded child will make lines, circles and many other marks, but as he experiences the use of crayons, he learns to make figures and animals. The teacher must stimulate and encourage the child. When he feels that he has made an accomplishment, he gains self-confidence.

The teacher should be sensitive to the child's ability, being well aware of what the child can do and cannot do, knowing when to encourage and when not to give help. The child's experience in art should bring real satisfaction, confidence, and achievement and less frustration. The child wants to feel that he has produced something that is his very own.



Recipes

CLAY RECIPE

Mix thoroughly one-fourth cup of dextrin (a kind of adhesive that may be purchased at the drugstore) into five pounds of dry clay powder. Add one and three-fourths pints of water. Do not allow mixture to remain for a long period of time because it may become sour.

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RECIPE
BOOK MARKERS PASTE

1 tsp. flour
¼ tsp. powdered alum
2 tsp. cornstarch
3 oz. water

Mix only dry ingredients. Add water slowly, stirring out all lumps. Cook over a slow fire, preferably in a double boiler, stirring constantly. Remove when paste begins to thicken. It will thicken more as it cools. Keep in covered jars. Thin with water if necessary.

PROJECT

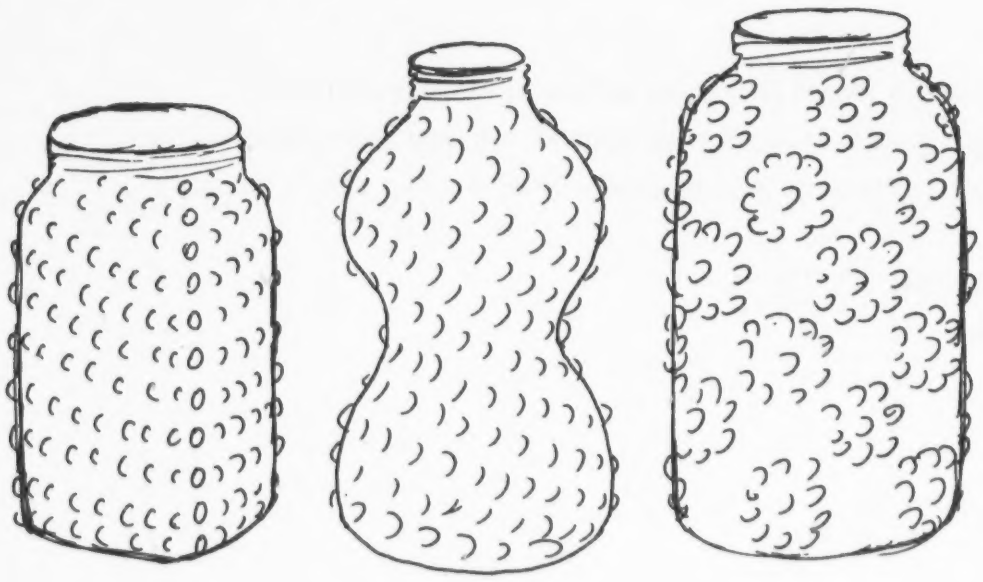
Finger Paints

MATERIALS

½ cup cornstarch
1 cup cold water
1 envelop gelatin
2 cups hot water
½ cup soap flakes or detergent
All-purpose dyes

PROCEDURE

Combine cornstarch and ¾ cup of cold water in saucepan. Soak gelatin in remaining ¼ cup cold water. Stir hot water slowly into cornstarch mixture. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture boils and is clear. Remove from heat; blend in softened gelatin. Stir in soap or detergent until mixture thickens and is thoroughly dissolved. Cool and then divide into jars. Stir different colors of dye into jars to make 3 cups of finger paint.



PROJECT

Mock Hobnail Milk Glass

MATERIALS

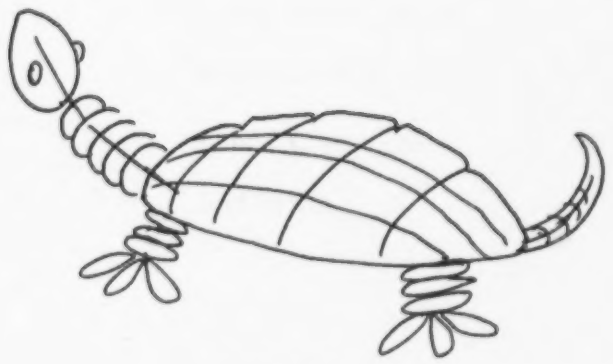
Various glass jars and other containers
Split peas
Glue
White enamel

PROCEDURE

Dot the containers with glue at regular intervals about ½" apart. Place a split pea on each dot of glue and allow to dry. When the glue has dried, spray the article with several light coats of white enamel, letting each coat dry well before applying the next.

PROJECT

Modeling with Dough



MATERIALS

Flour
Salt
Water
Powdered alum
Tempera paints

PROCEDURE

Combine 1 cup of flour, 1 cup of salt, and 1 tablespoon of alum (which can be purchased at drugstore). Add most of the water and mix well until desired consistency is reached. Animals, birds, artificial fruit, and vases are objects easily made. Toothpicks can be used to join arms and legs to bodies of animals. Paint with tempera. Dough can be kept in screw-type jars. Add clove oil to preserve.

PROJECT

Salt-Flour Clay

MATERIALS

½ cup of salt
1 cup flour
Vegetable coloring

PROCEDURE

Combine one-half cup of salt and one cup of flour. Mix and knead in enough water to make a stiff dough. Color with vegetable coloring. The dough will remain pliable for a long time if it is stored in a plastic bag. The dough can be molded into small figures, relief maps, and animals. Dry thoroughly, paint or enamel, and finish with shellac.

PROJECT

Finger Paint

MATERIALS

1 qt. water
3 tablespoons starch
1 tablespoon flour
Few drops of oil wintergreen
Calcimine powder for coloring

PROCEDURE

Add a small amount of water to the starch and flour to make a paste. Boil the rest of the water and add the paste. Cook until thick, adding a few drops of oil wintergreen to keep the paint from forming scum. Store in jars with tops.

PROJECT

Paper Pulp Clay

MATERIALS

Shredded newspaper
Boiling water
2 cups flour
½ cup salt
Cheesecloth

PROCEDURE

Tear newspaper into small pieces and cover with boiling water. Allow to soak for 24 hours. Stir or beat into a pulp. Drain off excess water and strain pulp through a cheesecloth. Add two cups of flour and one half cup of salt to each three cups of pulp. Knead like bread dough until it's the consistency of putty. Cover with a damp cloth. This is an excellent substitute for clay.

PROJECT

Coal Garden

MATERIALS

Medium-sized lump of coal or brick
Salt
Bluing
Mercurochrome
Food coloring (optional)

PROCEDURE

Place lump of coal in bowl and sprinkle coal with one tablespoon of salt. Carefully pour two tablespoons of water over salt. In the same manner, pour on two tablespoons of laundry bluing. Then add two or three drops of mercurochrome and the same amount of food coloring. After several days, you should have a colorful moss-like growth. If not, add a few more drops of water.

PROJECT

Sawdust Mache

MATERIALS

½ cup flour
1 tsp. sodium benzoate
1 heaping tsp. powdered alum
1 tsp. sugar
1 pint warm water

PROCEDURE

Mix dry ingredients and moisten with a little water to make a smooth paste. Add the remaining water and cook until it is thick, stirring often. Add very fine sawdust. Make a plastic mass that holds shape, work together well and mold.

PROJECT

Modeling Clay

MATERIALS

One cup of flour
½ cup of salt
1 teaspoon powdered alum
Water or glycerin
Food coloring

PROCEDURE

Mix dry ingredients thoroughly, then mix with water or glycerin to consistency desired. Color with food coloring.

PROJECT

Liquid Bubble Bath

MATERIALS

2 tablespoons powdered detergent (not soap)
1 tablespoon glycerin
1 cup hot water
Few drops of food coloring
Few drops of perfume

PROCEDURE

Combine the first three ingredients in a container, add the last two ingredients, and mix well. Bottle the liquid bubble bath in decorated jars or bottles.